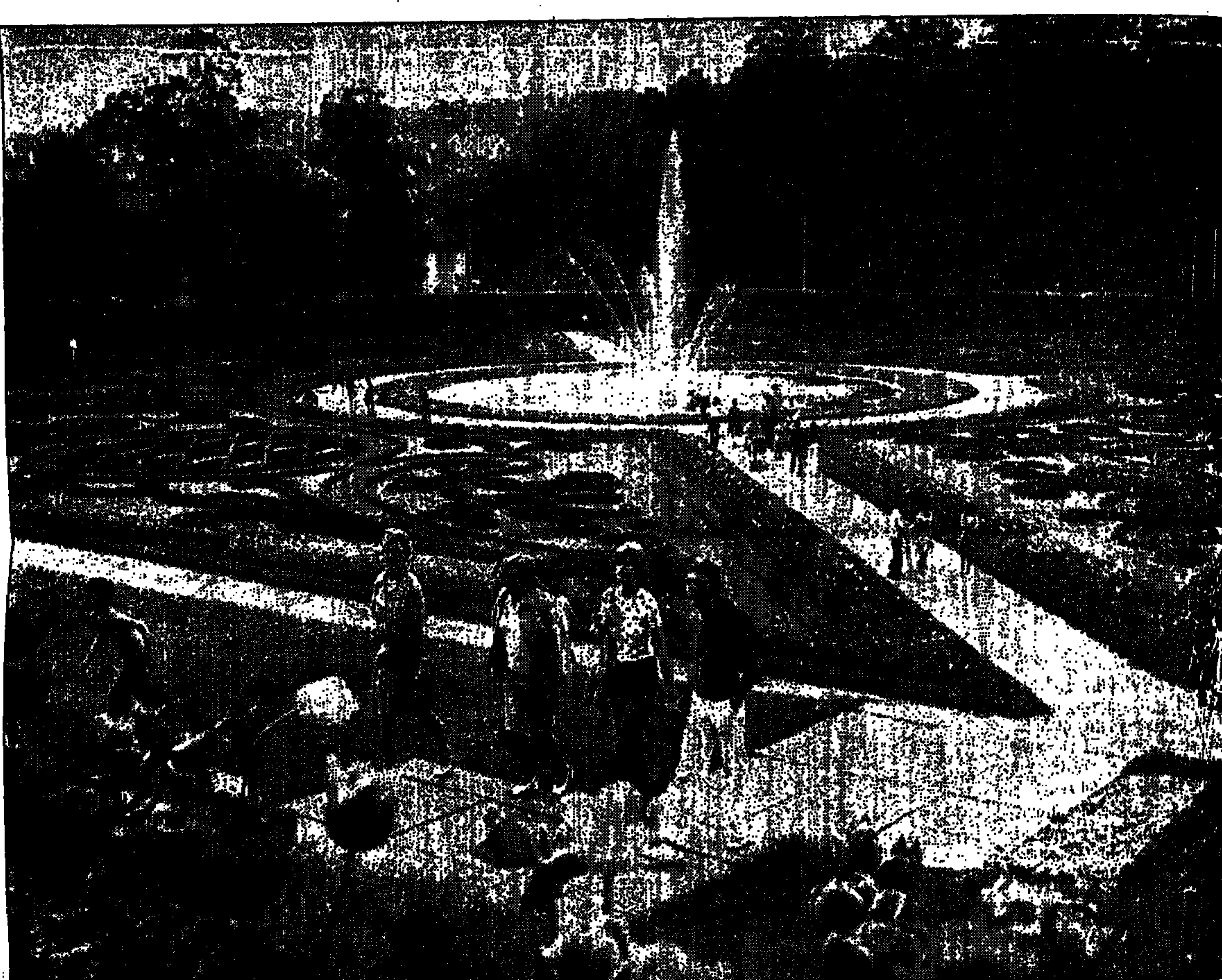
Parks in German

Is Germany a country of parks as well? Indeed it is. There is the magnificent Englischer Garten in Munich, the blossoming gardens around the river Alster in Hamburg, the flower beds of the German Federal Garden Show in the capital, Bonn, situated on the Rhine, and over a thousand other parks including whole forests. Again and again the landscape thickens to a park. Where a park transcends the borders of a town and takes over the woody hills both architects and gardeners sail with the wind. A good example is the Gruga Park in Essen, in the Ruhr area: it was laid out in 1929 and comprises waterworks, a botanic garden and exhibition halls. Or the Wilhelmshoehe mountain park at Kassel: in its midst is the residence built in 1786 which was temporarily occupied by Napoleon III. Or Ludwigsburg on the Neckar baroque palace and park and fairy-tale garden. The beautif on the Island of Mainau on L Constance, on the other hand a different kind: here the Sw Count Bernadotte looks after gardens with Mediterranean tation. Why not make a tour the parks of Germany?





Ludwigsburg

Gruga-Park/Essen

The German Tribune

burg, 2 August 1981
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Ottawa's spirit of conciliation

e Ottawa economic summit ended n a conciliatory note, perhaps in- y after all the fireside chats and both in the open air and at the ence table.

t with bilateral talks and meet- f all seven leaders of the major n industrialised countries, satis- n was arguably a foregone conclu-

t although the Western leaders t have had no choice but to pro- the summit a success it failed to up with clear evidence of headway. e joint declaration listing 38 points lly avoided admitting that views red or were diametrically opposed most economic and foreign policy es.

he Ottawa summit held forth no mise of achieving in common what dividual governments had failed to do: minating unemployment, reducing in- n and converting anxiety into con- ce in the future.

e Western leaders were agreed that eement need not in itself be a dis-

r. The summit business, while attrac- g publicity, has grown more honest.

It was not, however, because the lea- s had, in sagacious self-restraint, me to realise that hundreds of mil- ns of households and factories cannot prescribed confidence and growth by ree, as it were.

At Ottawa they were no longer able to ive at a common denominator, differ- ces of opinion having arisen on mat- s of principle.

The summit was no longer a gather- of pragmatists with a common bag economic policy tricks who differed ely on which approach was most itable at the given moment.

Each had his own bag of tricks, cer- nly the newcomers to the economic mmit. President Reagan and Mrs. hatcher felt market forces were best ited to bring about economic recovery.

They banked on the regenerative powers of private enterprise and felt the state was best advised to steer clear of guiding the economy.

It would, they claimed, be more suitably employed in pruning welfare expenditure and maintaining high interest rates to fight inflation.

President Mitterrand of France, in contrast, plans to leave no stone unturned to make sure that the state and nationalised major companies create jobs, ensure greater social justice and implement industrial democracy.

There is no conceivable compromise between these two outlooks. Neither can dispense with the principal tools in its kit. Mr. Reagan cannot forgo high interest rates, M. Mitterrand cannot forgo state intervention.

Even so, the Ottawa summit was anything but superfluous. It is especially important for ties to be maintained when politicians with opposing theories are at the helm.

The public may have been impressed by seeing Mr Reagan and Herr Schmidt driving side by side round the golf course; if so, the two men will have given rise to expectations they must fulfill.

There comes a time when leaders must find out what their opposite numbers think on major issues and do so without the services of diplomats, interpreters and cover-up specialists.



Par for the course: Chancellor Schmidt and President Reagan on the fairway in Ottawa. (Photo: dpa)

In this way they learn where their national interest obliges them to pay heed to others or run the risk of being put to disadvantage.

For Bonn this point had been reached in respect of trade with the Soviet Union. Chancellor Schmidt told President Reagan the new strength of US leadership could not be equated with unconditional subservience by America's allies to the strict anti-Soviet outlook of the new US administration.

For Reasons both economic and political Bonn needs the new deal with Moscow whereby German pipelines are to be exchanged for Soviet natural gas deliveries.

Pipeline sales are a great help to the German steel industry, while supplies of natural gas increase both the number of energy sources and the number of suppliers.

One-sided dependence will not result. Economic cooperation and benefit are an inducement for the Soviet Union to permit political and personal ties between East and West, between the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In this age of economic crisis every state tries to stage a recovery at the expense of others, thereby destroying the sensitive network of international economic ties.

The Ottawa summit undertook, in its joint declaration, to continue to resist protectionist pressure in the form of open and covert trade limitations or subsidies to support declining industries.

Wolfgang Mauersberg

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 July 1981)

No miracles sought, none given

All concerned can be satisfied with the outcome of the Ottawa economic summit unless they were expecting miracles.

It would, for instance, have been illusory to expect the summit to agree on more or less specific resolutions or to expect America, Europe and Japan to commit themselves to common policies.

The Americans are to stick to their policy of high interest rates, the Europeans are to maintain trade ties with the Soviet Union and the Japanese are to persevere with their brash export policies.

The 38-point final declaration states common aims, such as curbing inflation and unemployment, condemning Soviet power politics, reaffirming joint energy targets and mentioning the hardships and problems faced by the developing countries.

What counts will be what the seven major industrialised countries of the West make of the Ottawa summit.

On each and every issue President Reagan insisted on the US claim to leadership of the West. No-one aimed to dispute this claim in Ottawa.

But the Europeans, led by Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Francois Mitterrand, made it clear that although President Reagan's economic policy might be good for America it was not necessarily good for Europe.

This view was not shared by Britain's Margaret Thatcher.

Unlike the Americans, Europeans are face to face with the Communist world, as it were. So East-West ties are bound to be seen in a different light in Paris and Bonn or in London and Rome than in Washington.

Besides, Washington is quick to abandon principles, as foodgrain sales to the Soviet Union have shown, when pressed to do so by domestic lobbies.

So Chancellor Schmidt saw no need to accept President Reagan's views on this issue.

The Ottawa summit failed to issue prescriptions to cure the many problems faced by the world in general and the Western industrialised countries in particular.

Variety remains the keynote of the West in both its positive and its negative aspects. Each country will continue, in the final analysis, to have to find its own ways and means of dealing with its specific problems.

This realisation and outlook was strengthen the Chancellor's hand in resismeans for Herr Schmidt is that Bonn must get down to business in greater earnest than many may have hoped in its bid to consolidate the Bonn budget from next year.

High US interest rates will continue to exert pressure, which should tend to strengthen the Chancellor's hand in resisting claims by political parties and lobbies.

In the foreign and security policy sector we shall have to see how far the Americans act in accordance with Western European requirements and in keeping with the twofold Nato resolution on missile modernisation and arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.

President Reagan gave Chancellor Schmidt a firm undertaking to negotiate with the Russians. It remains to be seen whether he will do so. *Günter Brozio*

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 23 July 1981)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Moscow keeps hammering away just as it was doing 60 years ago

Moscow has brought pressure to bear at two points, Bonn and Scandinavia, in its bid to upset the Nato decision on missile modernisation.

It is using apparent peace initiatives designed to turn Soviet superiority into predominance.

Influence is being exerted on Western governments via Social Democratic parties and pacifist trends.

In 1922 Lenin rebuked his Commissar for External Affairs, Chicherin, who was loath to play on pacifist sentiment at an international conference.

Chicherin had always despised such petty bourgeois illusions and Lenin wrote that: "You and I have both fought pacifism as a programme for the revolutionary party of the proletariat. That is clear.

"But by whom, where and when has exploitation of pacifists by this party been rejected whenit was a matter of undermining the enemy, the bourgeoisie?"

This maxim still applies, as can be seen by reading the manual on socialism published by *Marxistische Blätter*, the Frankfurt publishers, in 1980.

The peace policy of socialism and the communist countries is said to have nothing in common with pacifism, although the two could collaborate in, say, bids to forestall the stationing of new medium-range US nuclear missiles in Europe.

For example, Comrade Shaposhnikov, the CPSU Central Committee representative responsible for the World Peace Council and similar bodies, recently queried Einar Förde, the left-wing chairman of the ruling Norwegian Labour Party, on a nuclear-free zone in Scandinavia.

Mr Förde, who was on a visit to the Soviet capital, is Norway's Minister of Religious Affairs and Education.

Mr. Shaposhnikov was also associated with the visit to Moscow and the Soviet *Committee for the Protection of Peace*, which is attached to the Central Committee, by a delegation of the German Peace Union (DFU) in February 1980.

The DFU delegation discussed the struggle against missile modernisation and ties with the World Peace Council. Six months later the DFU drafted what, two months later still, came to be known as the Krefeld Appeal.

Seemingly launched by independents, the Krefeld Appeal has since been used as a Popular Front platform.

Mr Shaposhnikov's talks with Mr Förde were accompanied, as it were, by the Soviet bid, launched via Willy Brandt, for talks with all the Scandinavian countries on a nuclear-free zone.

Developments in Norway have really been exemplary in many ways. Odvar Nordli, the Prime Minister until a few months ago, was a right-wing Social Democrat, whereas Party chairman Steen was considered a left-winger.

To satisfy the left wing of the party a vague desire for a nuclear-free zone was included in the party's manifesto, but it *was soon found to be not enough as a* mere hope for the future.

Past complaisance and tactics have now been superseded by pressure exerted by left-wing Socialists, Social Democrats and Moscow on the new Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Gro Harlem-Brundtland.

Danish Premier Anker Jörgensen plans to discuss a nuclear-free Scandinavia with the Scandinavian countries, with the neutrals, with Washington and with fellow-members of Nato.

He is sure to conclude that Nordic balance depends on both the graduated neutrality of Finland and Sweden and the nuclear protection afforded by Nato.

The countries on Nato's northern flank do not station nuclear weapons in any case. Denmark will merely share political responsibility for missile modernisation; it will not participate in any way.

Any nuclear-free zone in this part of the world would be sure to affect the Kola peninsula, the Baltic and Byelorussia, all being theatres from which nuclear missiles could be launched at Scandinavia.

What, then, about Schleswig-Holstein, a part of the Nato northern command? What indeed? The talks on medium-range missiles would be complicated, confused and protracted by including one new theatre after another.

It would be unrealistic to expect anything to come of them, whereas Moscow's superiority would remain a distinctly real factor. The debate within Nato merely helps Moscow to spread confusion.

In November Mr Brezhnev is due to visit Bonn again. He will doubtless produce a dove of peace (in a cage) to lend wings to the peace movement and ... the way for the SPD conference.

The dove in the hand he might ... to offer could, for instance, be a ... teral Soviet missile moratorium. No ... could object if Mr Brezhnev's ... were to mean Moscow would stop ... ploying fresh medium-range ... from the beginning of the Geneva ... to be held immediately after his ... Bonn.

By then the Soviet Union would ... more than enough missiles at the ... and would not be making much ... concession. Its SS-20 programme ... ready well exceeded its original ... sions.

But Mr Brezhnev would doubtless ... expecting the West to respond to ... cow's generosity (a gesture that ... nothing) by postponing Nato ... modernisation until results were ... ed at the Geneva conference. This ... amount to a virtually indefinite ... ponement, during which Moscow's ... ponderance would continue.

It is now up to Bonn not to ... the evidence that the West too is ... to disarm. The West too is keen to ... arm. The West has long practised ... ratorium out of necessity.

If a balance were to be struck ... West would need to modernise ... the East cut back. Negotiations ... need to be held to decide where the ... might meet.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has already made it clear ... the decision on arms modernisation ... with Moscow.

Opposition spokesmen Helmut ... and Alois Mertes stress the equal ... tance of negotiations an missile mod... sation, while in the SPD Chancellor Schmidt is taking the passive role ... Willy Brandt the active one.

Claus Gennrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 July 1981)

The Soviet Union has rejected a plan aimed at reaching a compromise and allowing the second Helsinki review conference in Madrid to end.

Russians reject compromise plan at Madrid conference

It will not even discuss the offer. Instead it made a counter proposal which has plunged the conference into its most serious crisis yet.

The compromise attempt began when the head of the American delegation to the Madrid conference, Max Kampelmann, took a working lunch with the head of the Soviet delegation, Leonid Ilyichev, who is the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

Ambassador Kampelmann outlined what the Nato countries had to offer by way of a compromise to allow the conference to end, at long last, with a final document satisfactory to everyone.

The West was prepared to dispense with defining the terms of reference of confidence-building measures to be adopted by a European disarmament conference using General de Gaulle's phrase "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

"All Europe," Mr Kampelmann said, would suffice. To satisfy Soviet prestige requirements the United States had declared itself willing to include adjacent waters inasmuch as naval movements off the coast of Europe were connected with exercise on the continent.

The neutral and non-aligned countries among the 35 CSCE delegations thought the offer a step in the Soviet direction.

Moscow had called for concessions by the West in return for Soviet readiness to agree to confidence-building measures in European Russia.

No-one was expecting Mr Ilyichev to accept Mr Kampelmann's proposals as the complete solution to the problem, but there were now hopes that the Madrid talks, which have made little headway since November 1980, might yet get down to serious discussion of security issues.

The Western proposals were not even formally submitted. Mr Ilyichev did not let matters progress this far. Twenty-four hours after the working lunch he told Mr Kampelmann the offer was not one Moscow was prepared even to discuss.

The counter-proposal the chief Soviet delegate then put forward plunged the conference into its most serious crisis yet. Diplomats were at such a loss that not one delegate was prepared to speak at the full session the next day.

At the bar in the Palacio de Congreso, the unofficial CSCE news exchange, the only issue felt to be relevant was either how long the break would now be or whether the conference could be regarded as being over.

After Mr Ilyichev's drumroll, speculation about the negotiations bursting into the home straight by the end of July seemed well and truly scotched.

The West was surprised both by the nature and by the speed of the Soviet response to the Nato offer. CSCE diplomats are accustomed to Kremlin bureaucrats needing time and space to manoeuvre, like a full-size battleship.

So pundits doubt whether 24 hours were enough to consider the Western offer and supply Mr Ilyichev with fresh instructions.

The West suspects he had his counter-proposal at the ready before he and Mr Kampelmann even met for dinner.

This being the suspicion, it would seem to follow that Moscow was not interested in coming to terms at present. The Kremlin might conceivably imagine it could gain more substantial concessions from the Nato countries at a later date.

The West may be nonplussed but still wonders whether the Soviet Union really means what it says. Always assuming Moscow is not playing its hand for all it is worth, might the Kremlin possibly have lost interest in a European disarmament conference?

In terms of content Moscow's reaction to the West's concession is a decided step backwards.

Mr Ilyichev read out to the full conference a complex sentence requiring both grammatical and general clarification. So one much first assume, and may reasonably do so, that this lack of clarity means the Soviet Union has reverted to its maximum demands.

Moscow now insists on confidence-building measures extending to Atlantic waters "in keeping with the with of Europe." The Atlantic coastline of Europe would then be a kind of half-way ho... At all events this must surely ... that confidence-building measures ... cover virtually the entire width of the Atlantic, extending practically to the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The Soviet Union would also like ... see non-European participants in ... disarmament conference, meaning the United States and Canada, included. The exact wording can readily be taken ... mean Moscow would like to see ... ures extend to at least parts of North American.

The Soviet proposals did not necessarily mean the entire Atlantic, Mr Ilyichev vaguely added by way of explanation, but negotiations on this point could be hold at the disarmament conference.

This, however, is exactly what ...

Continued on page 3

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HOME AFFAIRS

Debaters liven up the CSU conference

... days when the Bavarian Christian Social Union simply approved ... by acclamation are over. This ... bly the most important outcome ... party's conference in Munich.

... bers are now keen to say what ... ink, and although the line taken ... leadership is mostly endorsed, it ... tomatic. Debate was intense.

... year's conference had 1,053 de... representing 174,585 members ... made it the largest ever.

... was also the most ambitious. For ... time it was held over three ...

... main objective was to live up to ... ynote of the conference: dealing ... the challenges of the present and ... ing answers for the future.

... terms of this slogan it was a no ... than part success. The CSU correctly analysed the current critical national international situation and clearly ... the challenges faced.

... it for this was due first and ... st to CSU leader Franz Josef ... the Bavarian Premier, who out... everything and everyone at the ... ence.

... CSU also dared not only to pose ... ions but also, in certain sectors, to ... ble answers to them — in housing ... y and on the media, for instance.

... the conference said nothing or ... ed itself to vague hints on two ... s that many people regard as crucial ... st upsetting.

... the threat to external security only ... CSU politicians aired their views, ... ally Herr Strauss, who made no ... about his call for priority of missile modernisation over disarmament ... tions.

... not even he explained how he ... ed to allay many people's fears of ... ever-faster turn of the arms-race ...

... forceful words were doubtless de... d to reinforce the views of those ... share his opinion, but they were ... ly to reassure the doubters.

... CSU would do well to go into ... arguments in greater detail.

... other major issue was how to ... with the country's economic problems. Here the CSU reiterated its willingness to participate in spending cut programmes once they are drawn up by the government.

But the conference left one with little more than a hope that the CSU would then be sufficiently specific in its views on the suject as to warrant its claim to be taken seriously in political leadership.

The effect of the conference within the party could well prove more significant than such unsatisfactory policy statements on specific issues.

The CSU made it clear that the days when it simply approved resolutions by acclamation were over.

Members want to tell the leadership what to bear in mind.

This is a development on which there can be no turning back the clock. It is arguably the most important outcome of the conference.

In debate, accompanied by vociferous applause, the CSU also showed itself to be a party different from the SPD, the FDP and even its stable-mate outside Bavaria, the CDU.

It spent longer arguing about the rules governing absence from school of senior high school students than, for instance, about the East Bloc threat.

It was cordial in its applause for condemnation of the Bonn government's economic shortcomings but much more enthusiastic in its applause for police protection from muggers or calls for TV to show more "real life."

Maybe it would be true to say that this is what is different about the CSU. Only a minority of its members lays claim to interest in the political concerns of Bonn.

This trend has been even more marked since Herr Strauss stepped down as Shadow Chancellor and fell back on Munich, as it were, where he is Bavarian Prime Minister.

A majority of CSU members are more interested in regional affairs and the day-to-day worries of ordinary people.

As for the position of the Bonn Opposition as a whole, the CDU/CSU alliance, the Munich conference made it clear that old bones of contention have been buried.

Not only CDU leader Helmut Kohl but also CDU left-wingers Walther Leisler Kiep and Norbert Blüm have been accepted.

Bayernkurier, the CSU weekly, said the conference would provide stimuli. This, in the context of overall political debate, it failed to do.

But stimuli it most certainly provided for the CSU itself. If the party is to continue to play a national role this, however, will not be enough.

Heinz-Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 13 July 1981)

Allies: CDU leader Helmut Kohl (left) and CSU chief Franz Josef Strauss at the conference. (Photo: dpa)

Continued from page 2

... does *not* want. The essentials of ... French disarmament conference ... als included both the exact agenda ... the gathering and prior clarification ... of the entire complex. On this ... the West is agreed.

... spite the irreconcilable nature of ... West viewpoints the Madrid con... ce has nonetheless made fine progress.

... ty per cent of the wording of the ... declaration has been agreed, including ... important results in Basket Two ... (economic affairs) and Three (human ... and contacts).

... to go substantially beyond the out... of the first Helsinki review con... ce in Belgrade.

... the term "detente" is to be reinstated in the final declaration — always ... ded the entire conference does not ... to grief over disarmament.

Udo Bergdoll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 July 1981)

New look at an old sentiment

Years ago Franz Josef Strauss strenuously denied having said Bonn must be left to stew in its own juice until the national crisis really came to a head.

When the story of his speech broke, it was felt to be scandalous. Nowadays it sounds almost orthodox.

His address was to the 1974 CSU conference in Sonthofen.

He said: "For this reason we can only issue our warnings and state our opposition in general terms. The crisis must assume such serious proportions that what we feel is essential to remedy the situation can be embarked on in better psychological circumstances than would be the case at present.

"We have no offers in any case. We have no option but to base our approach on the view that *they* can no longer restore order to the economy, to society and to the state."

At the Munich CSU party conference Herr Strauss did little but solemnly reaffirm the strategy he once outlined in Sonthofen.

If he were to be asked what he would do if he were Chancellor or Finance Minister he would reply: "Let those who have got themselves into the present mess see for themselves how they get out of it."

With certain modifications Helmut Kohl, the CDU leader, echoed this sentiment.

There is a widespread inclination in Germany, especially among conservatives, to rate criticism and opposition legitimate only when made in a constructive manner, as a gesture of support for those criticised, as it were.

One is bound to reply that it is, in contrast, every parliamentary Opposition's right to take the attitude the Christian Democrats now seem to have done (apart, that is, from their Federal rights and responsibilities).

Maybe the Opposition ought not to be so upset when the government chooses to say, in much the same manner, that it has no need of an Opposition.

But does this approach get the Opposition any nearer its objective of taking over as the party in power?

The Sonthofen speech is nearly seven years old and its prophecies have yet to be fulfilled. Last year Herr Strauss led the CDU/CSU to their second-worst general election showing ever. So one may well wonder.

True, a government has seldom looked in such poor shape so soon after a general election victory as the present one in Bonn. But for the present this does the Opposition precious little good.

In fact the Christian Democrats are not much wiser than the ruling Social and Free Democrats. So the revamped Sonthofen strategy of letting the government stew in its own juice also serves as a cover for perplexity, contradictions and tension in the CDU/CSU.

This being possible be means of an approach Herr Strauss has long advocated contributes in a particularly effective way towards the appearance of peace and quiet in the Christian Democratic ranks.

Basically, however, the Christian Democrats have for some time relinquished the initiative — by virtue of this very sterile strategy.

The possibility of courting the FDP, junior partners in Chancellor Schmidt's Bonn coalition, with a flexible and progressive Opposition policy was a realistic option a few years back.

But it was stymied by Herr Strauss and his ambition to stand for Chancellor.

Now the FDP can no longer afford to give the Opposition a hearing. It cannot quit the Bonn coalition before 1984 unless the SPD provides it with a good excuse.

In 1984, the next general election year, the Free Democrats will have to break coalition ranks with the SPD, however.

In other words, the present Opposition has nothing to offer the FDP at the moment. There is no need why it should do so either.

Regardless whether it uses the stick or the carrot, if the Social Democrats scrap the coalition before the end of the current term the Free Democrats will have to change sides whatever happens.

This means that the Opposition, with whom they would then presumably be obliged to side, is for the time being both under no obligation and unable to act.

As a result the CDU/CSU is in a position to carry on until 1984 with a shortcoming of which, for a while, it seemed to have been cured.

It is given to allowing the contradictions of old to continue rather than frame new questions and answers in programmatic solidity and solidarity.

Opposition leader Helmut Kohl can wait until 1984 to see whether the government comes apart at the seams, thereby allowing him to take over the helm.

In other respects he must steer clear of conflict and make sure that in his bid for nomination as Shadow Chancellor in

Continued on page 7

■ REFUGEES

Court ban on rapid-check process opens floodgates for asylum seekers

Applicants for political asylum are forming queues up to 500 long outside the aliens' police department in West Berlin every evening.

That is more than the officials can handle in the course of the following working day.

In mid-July 200 Ceylonese camped for days in the precincts of Bahnhof Zoo, the city's main railway station. They were never the same 200 either.

As soon as one group had been processed and housed in emergency accommodation the next group came over by S-Bahn, or suburban electric railway, from East Berlin.

They kept on coming, with no end in sight. There has been an avalanche of asylum-seekers since the beginning of June in a city already bursting at the seams.

From 619 in May their number rocketed to 1,606 in June, followed by 1,089 in the first two weeks of July. They are mainly Arabs, Ceylonese, Ghanaians and Pakistanis.

This sudden rush is the result of a ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court at the beginning of May that screening of applicants for asylum to weed out those with no valid reasons was unconstitutional.

The practice, in use for several years, was illegal, the Karlsruhe court ruled, until the Bundestag had passed legislation to endorse it.

West Berlin began initial screening to check abuse of the application procedure for political asylum in 1977. It was the first *Land* to do so, having been obliged to take some action or other by an influx of Pakistanis by the hundred.

This screening enabled the authorities to carry out quick checks on newcomers who were not really victims of or liable to political persecution back home at all.

This category of people, usually assured by unscrupulous "recruiting agents" that the streets of West Germany were paved with gold, could then be deported within a matter of months.

As soon as the news spread that applicants for asylum were being deported more promptly their number fell drastically over night, as it were.

A simple screening procedure to weed out cases of abuse had put paid to the activities of recruiting agents and a number of lawyers specialising in shaky asylum applications.

But now the Federal Constitutional Court has ruled screening unconstitutional the floodgates are wide open again.

Every applicant for asylum, even though his case is obviously hopeless, is entitled to a complicated application procedure that can take anything up to six years.

And as long as his application is being processed he is entitled to social security and, of course, to stay in Germany.

West Berlin appealed to Bonn in May to legislate without delay for reintroduction of the screening procedure, but legislation is not expected to come into force before the end of 1981 at the earliest.

So the municipal authorities can do nothing about the influx as yet. In the late 1970s the applicants were mainly Pakistanis; now they seem to come mainly from Sri Lanka.

Last year no-one from Sri Lanka applied for asylum; this year applicants are arriving in droves. There were 48 in May, 106 in June and 520 in the first two weeks of July.

They mostly fly to East Berlin via Moscow, then cross to West Berlin by train. They are almost invariably young men who speak not a word of German, use identical shoulder bags and have the same tale to tell: "I am a Tamil and a political refugee."

The Tamil minority in Sri Lanka is, it is true, at odds with the government, but the Tamils are not deliberately persecuted, so an application for political asylum on this ground is obviously not valid.

Yet the agents have promised them the streets of Germany are paved with gold and taken their commission in advance. New arrivals are said to have paid DM4,000 for flight and travel documents.

West Berlin, unable for the time being to take legal action, has tried to persuade the new arrivals to return home of their own free will.

They are given free air tickets and $100 in cash. But so far only 39 have agreed to do so. The remainder have been accommodated in gymnasiums and other makeshift housing to give them at least a roof over their heads.

Would-be refugees from Sri Lanka are by no means the only ones to create difficulties. Even more Arabs, nearly 2,000, arrived in the city in the first six months of this year. Then came 766 Pakistanis.

There are between 10,000 and 12,000 applicants in West Berlin at the moment. The 2,200 beds in homes specially maintained by the Senate, or local government authority, for refugees are fully booked.

There are also West Berliners who take them as paying guests, with the Senate footing the bill. But here too there is a limit to the number of people with accommodation to spare.

So emergency accommodation has been provided in empty buildings and there are plans to build camps, and this is only the tip of the iceberg.

The authorities are worried about the possibility of asylum-seekers, unaccustomed to life in the West and unable to find regular jobs, going underground and turning to a life of crime.

They are also worried that this might lead to widespread hostility towards foreigners among the general public.

Berliners are not generally hostile to foreigners at present, but the large number of foreign nationals already in the city presents problems.

The percentage of migrant workers and their families is higher in West Berlin than in any other part of Germany. One child in four at primary school is a foreigner.

Among first-formers at primary school non-Germans account for well over a third of the intake, and this figure is fairly uniform for the city as a whole, although the figures naturally vary from borough to borough.

The number of foreigners legally resident in the city is 238,000, or well over 10 per cent of the population, and the 110,000-odd Turks are the principal problem.

The number of asylum-seekers from Poland is increasing, too, although the Poles are a minor problem by any criterion. In 1980 they numbered 436, in the first five months of 1981 there were 604, and numbers are continuing to increase.

Officially the Poles come as tourists, not as asylum-seekers. Their aim is to weather out the crisis back home. They are keen on Berlin because it is so close to home.

But since May 1981 the West Berlin authorities have stopped [illegible] permits for them too.

Berlin is trying to reach [illegible] with the Federal and *Land* gov[illegible] on sharing the influx of Poles [illegible] same way applicants for asy[illegible] shared between the *Länder*.

That would mean the city [illegible] only to accommodate four and [illegible] per cent of new arrivals from [illegible] much fewer than the number [illegible] trying to settle in West Berlin.

No-one seriously expects the [illegible] figure, 604, to be anywhere [illegible] rate. Many never bother to [illegible] the authorities, preferring to [illegible] gally. Most are skilled workers.

Some arrive having been [illegible] begin with, they can stay in the [illegible] camp in Marienfelde, set up [illegible] 20 years ago when people came [illegible] the thousand from the GDR.

The Poles are not strictly [illegible] stay at Marienfelde, but the [illegible] allow them to stay for three [illegible] maybe a week provided they [illegible] of German extraction.

Officially the camp is only for [illegible] Germans and others who have [illegible] lowed to emigrate from East [illegible] tries.

In order to stay longer at Ma[illegible] Polish "tourists" have to [illegible] ethnic German antecedents, [illegible] often be done by consulting the [illegible] macht information office in We[illegible]

This office looks after old We[illegible] records and is usually able to [illegible] claim that the applicant's father [illegible] father or another close relative [illegible] the pre-1945 German armed for[illegible]

This is generally accepted as [illegible] German extraction.

But Marienfelde, built to h[illegible] people, is bursting at the sea[illegible] 900 at the time of writing. The [illegible] refugees from the GDR, some [illegible] ners from the GDR visiting the [illegible] and 153 people joining families in [illegible] West.

Then come 517 ethnic German[illegible] the former Eastern territories, 60 [illegible] cal prisoners released by the GD[illegible] Poles and 69 others who cannot [illegible] geonholed in any of these categor[illegible]

Renate M[illegible]

(Kieler Nachrichten, 22 Ju[illegible])

Afghans first to get help from Help

Help is the name of a new refugee aid organisation launched at Frankfurt airport on 15 July, the day its first planeload of goods took off for Islamabad.

It was a Pakistan International cargo airliner with 35 tonnes of aid on board, including 22 tonnes of medicine and 10 tonnes of milk powder.

Help has been set up to bridge the gap between conventional refugee aid, consisting of spontaneous donation to deal with the worst effects of immediate hardship, and long-term government development aid.

"We want to lend a hand fast and with a minimum of red tape so as to improve the long-term prospects of refugees all over the world," says Volker Neumann.

Herr Neumann, a Social Democratic member of the Bonn Bundestag, is a member of Help's executive committee.

"We are starting in the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan where we shall be building schools and training facilities."

Thirty thousand donors raised the cash (DM900,000) for the first planeload of food and medicine which, it is hoped, will be the first of many in an airlift of aid bound for Pakistan.

In the wake of this first flight Herr Neumann and his Christian Democratic opposite number Herr Köster, also a Bonn MP and Help executive committeeman, flew to Islamabad.

They made a four-day fact-finding tour of refugee camps along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan with a view to keeping track of the flow of goods sent as refugee aid from Germany.

Roughly 2.1 million of the 15 million Afghans have left their Soviet-occupied country, the Frankfurt airport Press conference was told.

Most live in camps near Peshawar, a Pakistani city of 350,000 people near the Khyber Pass border with Afghanistan.

Food supplies are arriving satisfactorily in the wake of worldwide donations and organisational commitments on the part of the United Nations.

But what people in the refugee camps lacked was a perspective for the future, as Help executive committeeman Theo Pirkl put it. Dr Pirkl is Bavarian Welfare Minister.

Ninety per cent of the refugees [illegible] illiterate and most had worked [illegible] land, either growing crops or rais[illegible] tle in the most primitive conditi[illegible]

They stood no chance of int[illegible] in other countries or outside c[illegible] this was the point at which Help [illegible] to lend a hand.

"What camp-dwellers need is [illegible] help themselves," said Help e[illegible] committeeman Wolfgang Beitz, [illegible] secretary of the Otto Benecke F[illegible] tion in Bonn.

This organisation has extens[illegible] perience in vocational training [illegible] was instrumental in launching [illegible] aid facility.

Help is to set up schools in [illegible] fugee camps to fight illiteracy [illegible] who have learnt to read and w[illegible] then be able to learn a trade [illegible] shops set up with funds prov[illegible] Help.

Long-term assistance of th[illegible] cannot be arranged out of the [illegible] still less into it. "We have no [illegible] of basing our plans on second-[illegible] formation," said Herr Köster. [illegible] why we are taking a look at the [illegible] tion ourselves."

What kinds of trade are neede[illegible]

Continued on page 5

■ THE LAW

Judges' ruling gives green light to police use of TV film as evidence

Police are making increasing use of a simple and cheap method of collecting evidence for court cases arising from public events such as demonstrations.

They are seizing television footage and newspaper photographs.

As a result cameramen and photographers are sometimes seen as being police informers, and the often strained relationship between police and photographers is getting worse.

The increasing popularity of photograph confiscation is based on a loophole in a 1975 law and a court decision earlier this year.

The court case was based on an appeal by a daily newspaper, *Neue Hannoversche Presse,* whose editorial offices were raised last year when photographs were removed for use as evidence.

In March, the three-man bench of the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe decided not to rule on the appeal, thus strongly encouraging the police to continue.

The court based its refusal to rule on 1975 legislation entitling journalists not to divulge sources of information. Part of this right is that material from these sources may not be confiscated.

However, journalists notes, press film footage and tapes recorded by TV outside broadcast cameramen could be used as evidence.

Recent instances of seizure involve the West Berlin TV studios of *Sender Freies Berlin* and *Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen.*

Photographs have been taken from Association Press.

At a media workshop in Freiburg the police confiscated 39 videotapes and refused for weeks to return them.

In Hamburg they confiscated from Press photographer Tobias Heldt an important picture of an incident at the site of Brokdorf nuclear power station that had been printed in a weekly magazine.

Photos to which access has been gained in this way have invariably been intended to shed light on offences committed by demonstrators and the like.

In court they have invariably been considered incontrovertible evidence. At times, of course, the authorities, have drawn a blank; there have been no shots found of criminal offences being committed.

On at least one occasion, in Freiburg, the film confiscated has been used as a teaching aid at the police cadet training college.

By means not altogether legal the cadets were given instruction in the tactics and atmosphere of demonstrations and taught how to study the faces of typical demonstrators.

The Karlsruhe ruling said that any confiscation of media material must be viewed in the light of its detrimental effect on Press freedom.

But in the case in question the confiscation had been in no way out of proportion to the avowed purpose because it had been a case of several serious cases of breach of the peace.

The newapaper proprietors had not had their right to cover news stories curtailed, the court found, although it gave no reason for this opinion.

The panel probably had no time to consider the finer points of Press freedom and its susceptibility to such heavy-handed inroads.

The free and easy, unworried relationship between demonstrators and journalists, photographers and cameramen is based on a tacit mutual understanding.

Demonstrators must be able to feel confident that pictures taken of them in action will be used strictly for news purposes only and go no further than newspaper offices or TV studios.

Both sides agree that picture material is not filed for the police, neither for the uniformed branch nor for the plain-clothed branch nor for the intelligence authorities.

The police and law enforcement authorities have such extensive rights of their own that it is up to them to take pictures of their own.

In other words, journalists and Press photographers must on no account, even indirectly, enter into the service of the police and the state.

They are not auxiliaries of the public prosecutor any more than broadcasting corporations.

In a country where the rule of law is guaranteed, including freedom of the Press, the state and the media must remain strictly separate.

When demonstrators (who themselves are doing no more than resorting to a constitutional right) increasingly discover that the police are gaining access to Press photographs of them by means of search warrants, it is the end of the road for mutual confidence.

They will no longer allow themselves to be photographed. On more than one occasion journalists have already been hampered in their work by demonstrators and even assaulted.

This is hardly surprising. They are increasingly seen as police informers, which indeed they are if the police are entitled almost without limitation to go through their files afterwards.

Can one wonder, given this state of affairs, that demonstrators have taken to disguising their identity?

Cameramen and photographers are in an increasingly difficult position, both legal and actual. As one West Berlin police officer put it: "Clear off here! Press freedom has been suspended."

This comment is characteristic of the increasingly frequent police approach, that of making it difficult for media men to do their jobs.

Deutsche Journalisten Union, the trade union, has published an astonishing and depressing booklet documenting the modus operandi of the police.

Police officers evidently believe they are entitled on the slightest suspicion that picture have been taken of men in uniform to confiscate cameras and equipment.

They then calmly take out the film and expose it to daylight. This practice is similarly encouraged by base law rulings in recent years.

The law has increasingly tended to overrate police rights and underrate the public interest in news coverage.

Press photographers and cameramen have, as a result, been caught in a cleft stick. The police are making their work more and more difficult, and so are demonstrators and squatters.

The demonstrators can hardly be blamed for mistrusting and rejecting Press photographers when pictures taken are later used in evidence against them.

There have been enough instances of the wrong conclusions being inferred from still photographs.

In an age in which pictures are often considered more important than the written word the legislative conclusion to be reached is surely self-evident.

The law must be amended without delay to stop the present practice and plug the legal loophole.

The right to refuse to divulge sources of information, including the ban on confiscation of material supplied by sources, must be extended to include pictures taken by the media themselves.

It is high time Bonn ruled on the bona fide need to prosecute criminal offenders and ways in which it can clash with freedom of the Press.

Legislation must be passed to clarify the situation and make it clear that Press photographers and cameramen are not employed by the public prosecutor, broadcasting corporations are not police auxiliaries and media workshops are not indirect delivery men for the law enforcement authorities.

Alfons Heutgen

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 July 1981)

Continued from page 4

North-West Frontier Province, for instance? "The refugees must not be spread around the world like the Vietnamese," he said.

"They are to stay in their own part of the world. Maybe, once the Soviet spectre in Afghanistan is over, they will one day be able to return to their own country."

Help will be relying on donations and building camp schools as donations come in. Cash was urgently needed, Herr Körster said, because:

"According to our information the number of refugees from Afghanistan is still on the increase."

Walter Gutermuth

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 July 1981)

Bavarians go it alone on CS gas

Munich Interior Minister Gerold Tandler's decision to go it alone and equip the Bavarian police with CS gas for use in crowd control during violent demonstrations is a controversial, one.

The subject, perhaps fittingly for a gas of this kind, has become something of an irritant among the police and politicians specialising in security.

Police riot squads are by and large happy that something is being done at last to enable them to do something about the Molotov cocktails, paving stones and other projectiles that are lobbed at them.

Interior Ministers of the other *Länder,* in contrast, prefer not to follow Bavaria's example.

"The repercussions of CS gas in use are still being scientificially probed. We shall not be reaching a decision until findings are available," says the Interior Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf.

The Standing Conference of *Land* Interior Ministers discussed new police weapons in May and decided not to take the plunge just yet.

The standing conference's technical commission was instructed to test CS gas and other counter-insurgency weapons. So was the Fraunhofer research institute in Frankfurt.

At present the police can do very little about violent demonstrators. They just line up with their plastic shields, safety helmets and truncheons.

Now experienced demonstrators take precautions against the effects of tear gas there is nothing the police can do to stop an unruly mob.

They have small arms, of course, but to open fire would be out of proportion to the danger involved. So the police trade unions have long called for suitable equipment.

What they have been clamouring for are devices to put people out of action but not injure them, let alone kill them.

Inventors have not been inactive but the right weapon has yet to be found. A grapeshot gun that was claimed to be harmless was shown in trials to be capable of causing bone fractures and eye damage.

A plastic bullet is now claimed to do the trick. It works like a clenched fist but causes no injury, its inventor claims.

The range of equipment suggested includes orthochlorbenzylidenmalonitril, or CS gas. It is a chemical mace ten times more effective than conventional tear gas.

CS causes tears, skin irritation, trouble with breathing and feelings of anxiety and alarm. Police experts are particularly enthusiastic about the ways in which it can be deployed.

It can be fired from a special gun or included as an admixture to the contents of water cannons. It can also be fired from police pistols, with slight alterations.

On impact, cartridges fragment and shoot about like fireworks. "There is no way experienced demonstrators are going to be able to lob them back at us," says an appreciative Stuttgart police officer.

Herr Tandler recently demonstrated CS gas in use at the Munich riot squad barracks in Dachau, but the wind turned and blew a weak dose of gas at the invited audience of parliamentarians and police officers.

Tears were shed as a result. Yet experts are at pains to emphasise that CS gas is not a wonder weapon. The hard core of demonstrators have long been prepared; they all have gas masks with them.

Herr Tandler's decision to go it alone has mobilised police legal experts in the other *Länder.* They feel Bavarian police units are now ruled out for auxiliary duties elsewhere.

Other Interior Ministers are not going to risk allowing Bavarian auxiliaries deploying CS gas before tests have been carried out and findings published.

Political responsibility, it is said, will invariable lie with the Interior Minister in the *Land* where the gas is used.

Horst Zimmermann

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 July 1981)

FINANCE

Share performance gives a blue-chip lining to a nation's black clouds

German investors who took their brokers' advice late last year and ploughed their savings into blue chip shares on the stock market should by now be feeling happy.

Not all brokers said buy, but those who did can fairly claim that share quotations went up on average by over eight per cent in the first six months of 1981.

This has been a welcome development against a background of economic recession, higher unemployment, a weak deutschemark and high interest rates.

What is more, the public borrowing requirement has been increasing so fast that there has been talk of the state being on the verge of bankruptcy.

There has even been speculation about the possibility of a fresh currency reform and equalisation of burdens (the accompanying legislation that wrote off reichmark assets last time round in 1948).

There can be no gainsaying that the public sector has been borrowing so heavily that even institutional investors are beginning to take a fresh look at equities.

So there has been an overall improvement in the view taken of the stock market. When government stocks and fixed-interest bonds look less glamorous, shares invariably look more attractive.

This recovery in the first six months of 1981 was triggered primarily by overseas investment, however, especially by the oil-rich Persian Gulf countries.

As part of their international risk spreading they have taken to investing their petrodollars in German blue chips again.

Advised mainly by bankers in Zurich and London, the sheikhs seem to be interested almost exclusively in German companies with an international reputation.

Overseas interest has been shown in a wider range of shares lately, this time by US and British investors keen to make a twofold killing.

They reckon they will profit both from higher market quotations and from appreciation of their deutschemark investments. The DM is widely expected to stage a recovery before long.

Banks are disappointed they have been unable to interest private investors more. The only private investors to have jumped on the present gravy train have been those who have always favoured a flutter.

They for sure have benefited from the fine shape the stock market is currently in. But are higher quotations warranted?

There are many signs that the market has already anticipated future prospects. Bulls reckon an upturn is just around the corner, and it hardly matters whether it will happen early or late next year.

Analysts expect leading German companies to report higher profits this year, so the recession has by no means affected everyone in equal measure.

That is why trends have varied widely over the past six months. Investors who held the right stock at the right time have fared very well.

Between January and June 1981 shares in Daimler-Benz for instance, gained nearly 34 per cent. Schering, the pharmaceutical manufacturers, gained 33 per cent. Philipp Holzmann, the civil engineers, gained 32 per cent.

Even Bayer Chemicals, a widely diversified company, gained 20 per cent and more, so investors in specialised markets were not alone in making above-average capital gains.

Investors are feeling increasingly bullish at the prospect of higher export earnings as a result of the weakness of the deutschemark against other currencies.

Mechanical engineering shares have gained appreciably against this background. Since the beginning of the year MAN shares have gained 20 per cent, Gutehoffnungshütte 17 and Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz 12 per cent.

Motor manufacturers also rank among the export hopefuls, surprisingly perhaps, but export prospects in the dollar zone must surely have improved in view of the weaker deutschemark.

In the case of Daimler-Benz there has been substantial overseas buying too. Kuwait has reportedly increased to 20 per cent its shareholding in the Stuttgart blue chip company.

That would mean that only 20 per cent of Daimler-Benz shares are still owned by small shareholders. For some time the quotation has indeed been affected by limited availability of Daimler-Benz shares on the market.

But not all German blue chip stocks have gained over the past half-year. The greatest disappointment has been Siemens, which was slightly down at the end of June, although the lower quotation was more than offset by the dividend paid.

Siemens shares seem to have suffered from being bought early and in large numbers for foreign investors, with the result that the demand has probably already been met.

Besides, with Siemens profits likely to be down this year it is not the most attractive proposition at present.

This state of affairs could yet change, however, if Siemens were to join the ranks of companies benefiting from the deutschemark exchange rate and boosting export turnover.

Bank shareholders cannot be rubbing their hands in glee either. Not even Deutsche Bank, the largest of the Big Three, has gained over the period under review, and its shares have been bought by foreign investors.

Those who took their courage into both hands and risked a flutter in Commerzbank at the end of last year have been rewarded, though.

Its shares came a tumble towards the end of 1980 and seemed likely to stage at least a technical recovery, as indeed they have. In the first six months of 1981 they gained a little over 12 per cent.

Bank shareholders have been hard-hit by high interest rates, which not only cut the banks' profit margins; they have also forced the banks to write off the market value of fixed-interest securities held.

How substantial this depreciation proves will depend on the level of interest rates prevailing in capital markets at the year's end.

At the beginning of 1981 fixed-interest stocks and bonds were earning a little under nine per cent. The current market rate for 10-year bonds is about ten-and-a-half per cent.

As a result investors who bought the nine-per-cent Federal government New Year's Eve bond, paying 100.25 per cent issue price, now hold stock quoted at 91 per cent.

So in six months this one bond has lost more than a full year's interest in market value.

There are few signs of a lasting do[wn]turn in interest rates in the foresee[able] future. Germany can no longer disre[gard] international trends as it once may h[ave] been able to do.

Foreign investors are no longer p[re]pared to buy German fixed-inte[rest] bonds at a lower interest rate th[an] bonds in other currencies pay. Invest[ments] in deutschemark bonds no longer hol[d] forth the prospect of exchange-ra[te] gains.

They must first be convinced th[at] Bonn is determined to reduce its cur[rent] account deficit, the largest in the wo[rld], and eventually to balance the books.

Then, and then only, will internatio[n]al confidence in the deutschemark [be] restored.

Private domestic investors have lo[st] from losses sustained in the bond ma[rk]et and are no longer willing to ma[ke] long-term investments in fixed-inte[rest] securities.

They are increasingly concentrat[ing] on the shorter end of the market, esp[e]cially as short-term loans are paying be[t]ter money than five- or 10-year bo[nds] at present.

Banks repeatedly advise portfolio h[ol]ders to make long-term bond inve[st]ments and make sure of the cur[rent] high interest rates, but investors [are] chary.

Those who followed this advice [six] months ago have been stung by lo[wer] market quotations of their gilt-e[dged] and other securities.

But investors do seem to have lea[rnt] the lesson when it comes to retu[rns] after tax. The demand for bonds pay[ing] double-figure interest is substantial b[ut] the demand for low-interest bonds at [a] lower quotation is also heavy, especi[ally] at the short end of the market.

Income tax is payable on the inter[est] but not on capital gains on stock he[ld] for six months or more, so investors who pay high income tax rates can earn much more after tax by pocketing the capital gained when a low-interest security matures.

Kurt Wendt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 July 1981)

Gold loses a little of its glitter

Franz Pick, who charges one Kruger rand for half on hour of investment advice, was adamant in mid-March that gold was still the commodity to invest in, despite its falling price.

"Only gold offers protection from the coming currency depreciation. I firmly expect the pricee of gold to treble over the next two years."

Gold was then trading at $516 an ounce in London. It has now declined from its 21 January 1980 all-time high of $850 to $397.75 on 8 July 1981.

It went on the recover to $415, but this is little more than a technical reaction.

The price of gold could well plummet to $300 an ounce this year, say London bullion dealers Rudolf Wolff & Co.

It could also recover, of course, if there were a serious international crisis such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which prompted the last boom.

But this assumption evidently does not work according to plan, as Degussa, the Frankfurt bullion processers and dealers, point out.

The price of gold has failed to respond to either the left-wing electoral victory in France or continued tension in Poland or the Israeli raid on a Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The gold slump has been more marked in dollars than in deutschemarks. Between January 1980 and July this year the London fixing, quoted in dollars, fell over 54 per cent.

Over the same period the Frankfurt price per gram of gold was down a mere 32 per cent to DM31.04, while the DM buying price for Kruger rands has slumped roughly 30 per cent from DM1,695 to DM1,192.

Dresdner Bank gold specialist Meinhard Carstensen says high US interest rates have hit the price of gold, which althoough it may appreciate in value does not pay interest.

Overnight rates for dollars are currently about 20 per cent, while three-month US Treasury bonds pay over 15 per cent and prime industrial bonds are earning nearly 18 per cent.

Since inflation is currently running at slightly less than 10 per cent in the United States it is simply no longer true to say that gold affords protection from inflation.

Cash invested in the money market earns a substantial real return in relation to the inflation rate, and certainly in comparison with gold, which not only earns no interest but also costs storage fees.

Monetary policy is currently the front runner in worldwide bids to beat inflation, and record interest rates from New York to London are tending to stabilise the situation, although unemployment continues to increase.

Gold cannot compete in such circumstances. It pays no interest for one. Also, with inflation down slightly, investors no longer need to hedge against it s[o] urgently.

So further developments will the[n] depend to a large extent on how con[]vincingly money policies succeed in figh[t]ing inflation. But the gold price w[ill] depend to a lesser extent on the price o[f] oil.

Last year the oil-exporting countr[ies] substantially increased their gold [re]serves — by 106 tonnes officially (in [re]lation to the year's output of [] tonnes).

With oil prices down and sales d[own] too the oil exporters currently have le[ss] ready cash to spend on gold.

During the last gold slump rum[our] had it that the Soviet Union, which h[ad] long stayed out of the market, was b[ack] selling again.

There are no sure signs this is [the] case. The only definite pointer is [that] many East Bloc countries are in diffi[cul]ty with their debt funding and cre[dit re]quirements.

So for the time being economist [] C. Martin has the wrong end of [the] stick with his best-selling book [] *Gold schlägt Geld* (Gold Beats Cash).

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 July 1981)

[B]USINESS

European makers fall behind as Japan heads video cassette recorder boom

[Vid]eo cassette recorders were first [la]unched five years ago, in Germa[ny. Ger]many is the third-largest market [for vid]eo recorders. But Japanese man[ufactur]ers have made all the running.

[A b]oom in which one is an also-ran [is not] much fun. It is also no boost to a [compa]ny's image. That is why Philips of [Germa]ny have mixed feelings about it.

[The] man in the unenviable position [of bein]g shown a clean pair of heels by [the Jap]anese is Hanns-Dieter Horn, Phi[lips] Germany's newly-appointed head [of audi]o and video electronics.

[His] company were first on the market [in 197]6, but last year accounted for less [than 2]0 per cent of burgeoning German [sales, to]talling over 400,000 units.

[Thi]s poor showing is all the more [reg]rettable because video recorders are [easi]ly the sales hit of the entertain[ment] electronics industry.

[In] 1978 a mere 85,000 VCRs were [sold] in Germany. Last year it was five [times] as many. And by 1983 home sales [are ex]pected to top a million.

[Th]e German market is the world's [third-]largest, after Japan and the United [States]. Yet European manufacturers have [faile]d to hold their ground.

[Ph]ilips and Grundig as manufacturers, [and] Siemens, ITT, Loewe and Metz as [tra]ditional brand names, have lost two [thir]ds of their market to the Japanese.

[T]he European VCR, SVR and Video [2000] systems are trailing well behind [the Ja]panese VHS and Betamax systems.

[Sinc]e 1979 more video recorders have [been] sold in Western Europe than in [Japa]n or the United States. In Europe Philips and Grundig have fared even worse than in Germany.

Last year only one video recorder in five marketed in Europe was actually made in Europe, either by Grundig in Fürth, Bavaria, or by Philips in Vienna, Austria. Eighty per cent were made in Japan.

The reasons why Philips and Grundig, Dutch and German companies respectively, have fared so badly are readily outlined.

In 1979, when the boom really got going, they upset their customers by introducing a new system with which previous Philips and Grundig recorders were not compatible.

The situation was by no means improved by the time it took before the long-heralded new generation of video recorders found their way on to the market.

What was more, devices made in Germany and Austria had teething troubles; their quality was not always up to expectations.

Another reason why Japanese manufacturers have earned the cream on the coffee of the VHS market in particular is indicated by newly-released sales statistics.

Well-known German brand names have made the running, but on the Japanese manufacturers' behalf.

Last year, for instance, 225,000 VHS units were sold in Germany. All were made in Japan by JVC, Matsushita and other licence-holders.

But 61 per cent of this total were marketed under one of four well-known German brand names: Saba, Nordmende, Blaupunkt and Telefunken.

Sales percentages per brand for 1980 are as follows: Saba 23 per cent, Nordmende 15, Blaupunkt 13, Panasonic 12, Telefunken 10 and Hitachi nine.

JVC, who devised the system, also manufacture VHS video recorders, but recorders with their brand name come at the tail end of the list.

Panasonic is the brand name of Matsushita, JVC's parent company. Panasonic came fourth behind Blaupunkt, who sold exactly the same set, apart from the name plate.

The No. 2 Japanese system, Sony's Betamax, has not benefited to the same extent. Last year Sony sold 24 per cent of the Betamax units marketed in Germany, while its cut-price licence-holder Fischer sold 26 per cent.

But Sony's German subsidiary Wega was evidently a lightweight, selling only 12 per cent, unlike Japanese licence-holders Sanyo, who accounted for 20 per cent of the German market.

Philips and Grundig missed the opportunity of getting in early with other well-known brand names.

Saba, leading sellers of VHS devices, originally manufactured VCR devices too at their Black Forest works. But after serious trouble with customers they decided to do business with Japan instead.

Now Philips and Grundig have to make do with their own brand names. Two of their associates, Siemens and ITT, have hedged their bets.

They both sell VHS devices too, Siemens through their subsidiary Blaupunkt, ITT via their subsidiary Graetz.

So Philips and Grundig and associates stand very little chance of regaining more than a third of a market worth over a billion deutschemarks a year.

Herr Horn's latest message to dealers sounds defeatist. The industry's leading line, colour TV sets, is marking time, he wrote. The Press seemed only to have a nose for the booming VCR market.

No wonder it is a sensitive matter for him.

Heinz Blüthmann

(Die Zeit, 17 July 1981)

Coal-to-oil plant opens

[W]ith the opening of a coal liquefac[]tion plant in Bottrop in the Ruhr [Germ]any has gone some way towards [accom]plishing its objective of reducing [depen]dence on imported oil.

[Th]e plant took two years to build and [was] inaugurated by North Rhine-West[phali]an Premier Johannes Rau. It is run [by Ruh]rkohle AG and Veba Oel AG.

[Pla]nned output is 100 tonnes of oil a [day r]efined from 200 tonnes of coal. It [is] no coincidence that Herr Rau [opene]d the plant on behalf of North [Rhine]-Westphalia.

[Th]e Rhine and Ruhr *Land* footed [half] of the investment bill, which was [substa]ntial. But the Bottrop plant is not [ru]nning at a profit.

[Des]pite oil price rises in recent [mon]ths motor fuel refined from coal [woul]d still cost 35 pfennigs more per [litre] than conventionally refined petrol.

[Bu]t serious consideration should [never]theless be given to building a full-[scale] coal liquefaction facility.

[Th]e Opec countries will not really [behav]e in a manner appropriate to Wes[tern] requirements until the industrial[ised] countries seriously set about reduc[ing t]heir reliance on oil.

[Ger]many has for 45 years been tech[nical]ly capable of converting coal into [oil]. The first coal liquefaction plant in [the R]uhr was opened before the war.

[At] the Bottrop opening ceremony six [of the]se pioneers were rightly given an [hono]urable mention.

Heiner Radzio

(Handelsblatt, 9 July 1981)

Tool manufacturers handicapped by lack of capital

German machine tool manufacturers, export leaders long synonymous with quality goods made in Germany, have lost some of their glamour.

Last year four countries ruled the machine tool roost, accounting for 62 per cent of world output and 54 per cent of sales.

But for the first time the Federal Republic of Germany was No. 2, having been outstripped by US manufacturers, while Japan in third place nudged ahead of the Soviet Union.

The edge gained by the Americans was the result of enormous efforts to boost productivity, largely with a view to retaining industrial leadership.

It was due equally to readiness to invest and to the ability to develop new production methods and efficient machinery.

US machine tool manufacturers accordingly report unusually good business, capacity output and full employment. The Japanese have every reason for satisfaction too.

In 1980 the output of Japan's machine tool manufacturing industry was up 36 per cent to 865 billion yen, due to no small extent to brisk domestic demand from motor manufacturers.

There are problems in the Soviet Union, on the other hand, which is still unable to meet domestic demand. Last year German manufacturers continued as the major exporter to Russia.

1980 sales figures at first glance look most encouraging. Output was up 15 per cent to DM9.9bn and domestic sales up 18 per cent to DM5.5bn.

But imports were also up, 30 per cent, to DM1.8bn, and the Japanese were the main beneficiaries.

Japanese machine tools now seem to be high in standards and reliable in quality, not to mention competitive in price on account of high productivity.

Small wonder the *Nikkai Industrial Journal* notes that "the myth of German mechanical engineering superiority is showing signs of serious weakness"

The German machine tool industry is as capable of delivering the goods as ever it was, but it runs the risk of being unable to maintain either performance or reputation in the long term unless fundamental changes in German economic policy are undertaken soon.

The basic problem is that the German industry is undercapitalised. In mechanical engineering as a whole, companies' own stake in capital has declined to a mere 17.5 per cent of turnover.

The figure is continuing to decline and is substantially lower than the percentages in the United States, Japan and elsewhere, especially Japan, where it has steadily increased in recent years.

This capital is essential for investment and development and to keep manufacturers competitive, particularly for research and development.

It is the only way in which Germany's shortage of raw materials and higher energy costs than those of its competitors can be offset.

This is something Bonn must come to realise. Neither high taxation nor high interest rates are conducive to inexpensive and competitive output and healthy profits.

This is a warning that should also be sounded in the direction of parties to wage agreements.

The market for German machine tools is by no means exhausted, either at home or abroad. Domestic machinery is running a serious risk of growing outmoded, for instance.

Only a little over a quarter of machine tools in Germany are less than five years old and can thus be ascribed to the latest generation.

Yet the volume of investment in real terms was down two per cent on 1979 last year, so the trend is hardly towards renovation.

Abroad the prospects of sharing in US factory automation are good.

German manufacturers do not lack the know-how. They are keen enough to join in the fray too. But a few changes must be made if they are to succeed.

Heinz Hildebrandt

(Die Welt, 16 July 1981)

Continued from page 3

1984 he is not ensnared or laid low by some subterfuge or other.

So the initial truth behind the clamour of fundamental criticism of the government is the well-known dilatory Opposition policy, governed by convenience, contradictions and latent rivalries.

Herr Strauss still occasionally stakes his claim to be Chancellor or Finance Minister, if only in the odd rhetorical aside. So he does still show an interest in national issues.

Herr Kohl, on contrast, stressed in Munich the points the Christian Democrats as the most powerful political force in the country held in common.

It sounded very much as though he were still suffering from nightmares of the CSU going nationwide as a fourth major political party.

No-one, then, can force the Opposition to behave differently from the way it does. But who can say how the political landscape will look and what expectations voters (including even more youngsters) will have in 1984?

The answers the Christian Democrats may now rightly refuse to supply the government with will need to be presented to the voters by 1984 at the latest.

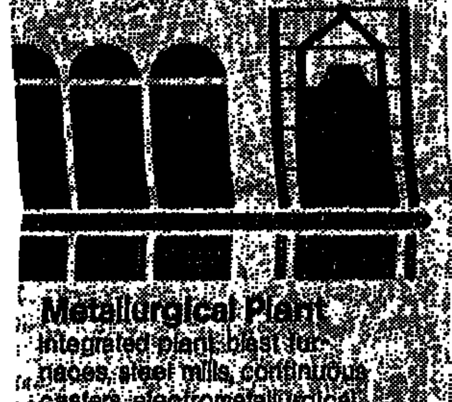
In other words, they ought to be working on them already.

"Without the leadership the Christian Democrats are capable of providing the decline of Germany and Europe will be inevitable," Herr Strauss said in Munich.

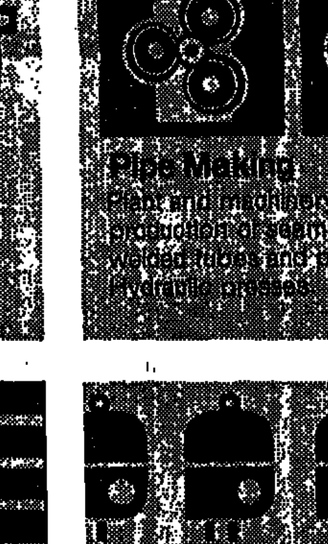
But nothing has ever been stopped in politics merely by saying "no." As for leadership, the Opposition can as yet only lay claim to it inasmuch as the government fails to provide it.

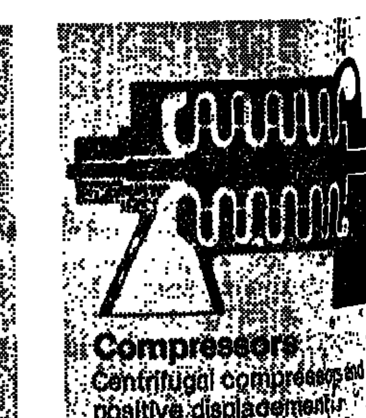
Robert Leicht

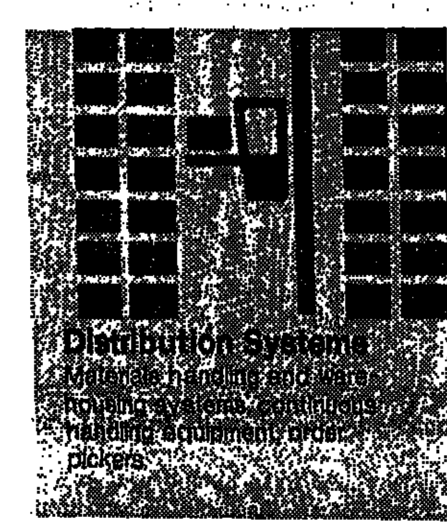
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 July 1981)

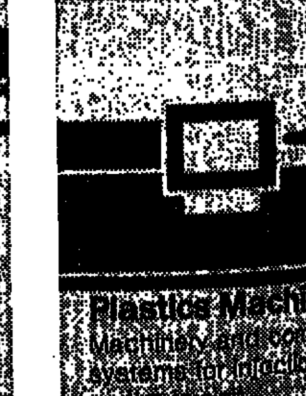


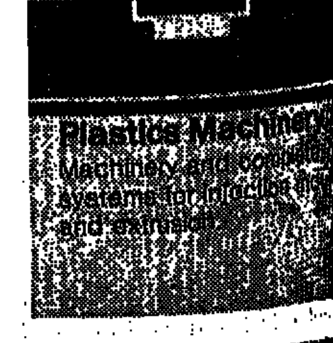


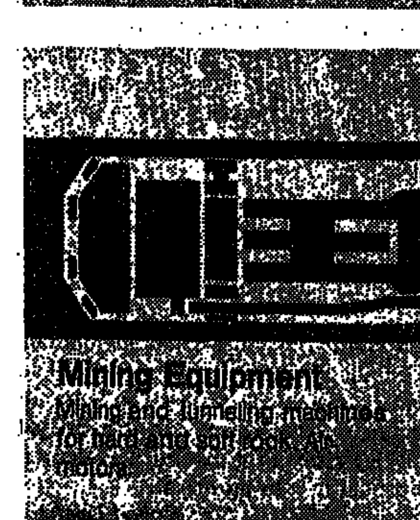




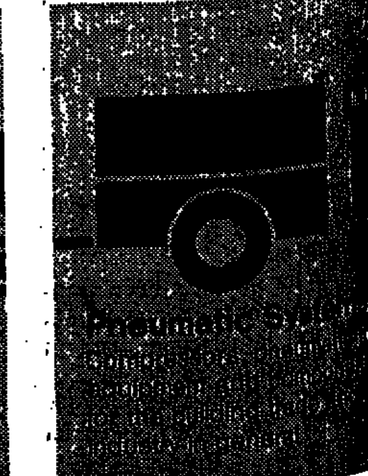




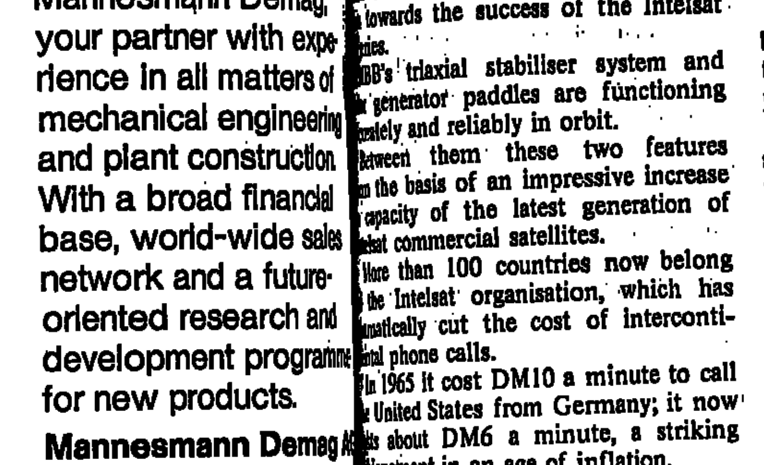








RESEARCH



Plenty of space for a phone call



Munich aerospace manufacturers Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm can ... themselves on a major contribu... towards the success of the Intelsat ...ries.

MBB's triaxial stabiliser system and ... generator paddles are functioning ...ately and reliably in orbit.

Between them these two features ...m the basis of an impressive increase ...capacity of the latest generation of ...lsat commercial satellites.

More than 100 countries now belong ...the Intelsat organisation, which has ...matically cut the cost of interconti...ntal phone calls.

In 1965 it cost DM10 a minute to call ...United States from Germany; it now ...ts about DM6 a minute, a striking ...ievement in an age of inflation.

Last year Deutsche Bundespost, which ...d $5,760 each in rent for 1,690 satel...e telephone links, is reckoned to have ...de a profit well in excess of ...M100m on the operation.

Experts claim the overall economic ...nefit of satellite telecommunications ...the Federal Republic of Germany ...s already drawn level with the space ...search budget of the Bonn Research ...Technology Ministry.

...at Intelsat began on a low key in ...5 with Early Bird, or Intelsat I, ...ch weighed 29KG and carried 240 ...ephone links.

Intelsat III, launched in 1968, weigh... one and a half tonnes yet alone re...ed 1,200 telephone channels.

Seven years later technological ...ances reduced the weight of Intelsat ...-A, with over 6,000 telephone links, ...863kg, while the current Intelsat V ...eration, weighing only fractionally ...re, handle 12,000 calls simultaneous-...

This increase in capacity was made ...sible by a new stabiliser system, the ...B triaxial system, which replaced ...n stabilisation.

When a communication satellite ...ches its geostationary orbit, a point ...00km above the equator at which it ...ears to stand still, it is subject to ...ious forces that will change its posi...n unless counteracted.

They include the pressure of solar ra...tion, the attraction of the moon, the ...mmetry of the earth's gravitational pull ...d the remnants (at that altitude) of ...e atmosphere.

For a communication satellite orbit is ...no means the only key feature; its ...sition in relation to the earth is of ...cial importance.

The slightest change in angle may re...t in its antennas losing sight if the ...get area. So accurate and reliable ...ection-finding and stabilisation are ...ential for the success of a mission.

A satellite must be capable, by means ...its own equipment and backed up, if ...cessary, by its ground station, of ana...sing its orbit and position and chang...s course and position if need be.

It is dotted with small and miniature ...ooster engines to enable it to do so. ...ace technology was quick to resort to a trick to keep fuel consumption and wear and tear on the jet nozzles to a minimum.

This subterfuge was to make the satellite gyrate. External forces were transformed into satellite movements based on the laws of gyration that could be set right without too much trouble.

To gyrate well, satellites have to be barrel-shaped. This considerably reduces the surface area available for solar panels.

Individual solar cells are only a few square centimetres in size, but the more the better to generate solar power for the satellite.

As long as satellites need to gyrate, however, they are limited to the barrel shape and the outside walls of the barrel on which to house the solar cells that power the telecom relay facility.

The triaxial stabiliser system developed in the Federal Republic of Germany put paid to the need for a barrel shape.

The interior gyrates, the exterior stands still. The satellite can be fitted out with solar paddles — wings covered in solar cells.

This new and relatively sensitive principle proved an operational success on board the Franco-German Symphonie satellites launched in 1974 and 1975.

Intelsat then decided to use it to double the capacity of its telecom satellites.

The balance wheel, weighing several kilograms and rotating at several thousand rpm, is naturally only part of the control system. There are also infrared and solar sensors.

The infrared sensors track the earth's position, while the solar sensors, with varying degrees of sensitivity, aid stabilisation and help adjust the solar paddles.

There are also complicated electronic systems with sophisticated programming.

Between them they make it possible to aim Intelsat V satellites at their target areas to within a few tenths of a degree.

Yet Intelsat V, weighing 950kg and designed for an active life of seven years, is the size of a small house.

The body of the satellite, including antennas, is 6.6 metres tall. With solar paddles extended, at 7.1 metres each, the satellite in orbital position has a wing-span of 15.7 metres.

The paddles are made of honeycomb aluminium and carbon fibre-reinforced plastic and are the best that modern light-weight techniques can provide.

They make it possible to cut the weight of solar panels from 60kg to 20kg per kilowatt.

The two paddles, with their 17,600 solar cells, generate 1,564 watts, declining towards the end of the mission to 1,288 watts.

MBB are the main subcontractors, accounting for about 10 per cent of the contract. The main contractors are Ford Aerospace of the United States, who farmed out roughtly 22 per cent to subcontractors in all the major industrialised countries.

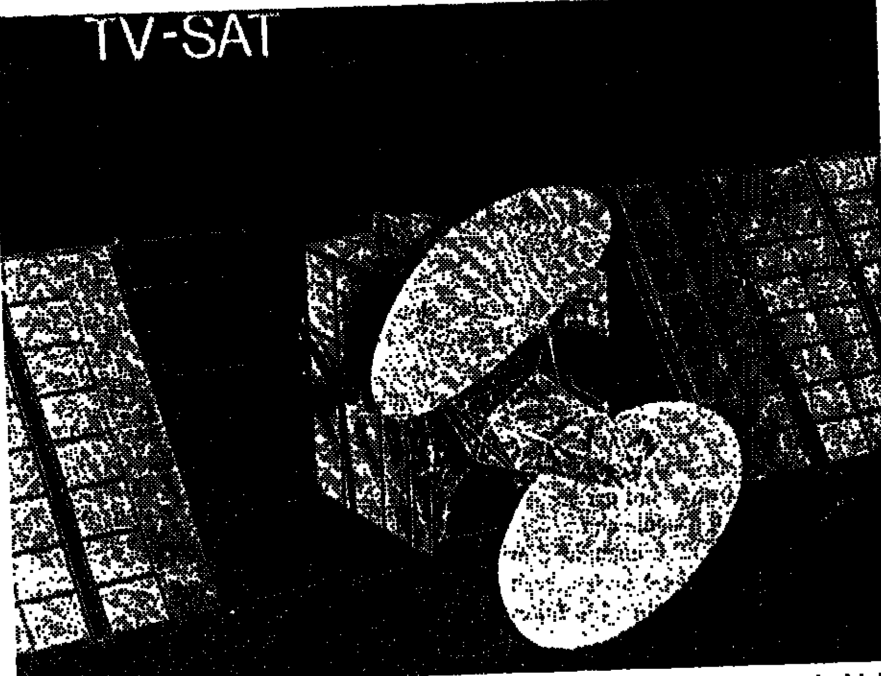
The original plan was to build seven Intelsat V satellites worth $235m. Now more than twice as many are to be built.

The first two were successfully launched in December 1980 and April 1981. Others are to be put into orbit at intervals of three to four months.

Their mission will be to provide the satellite telecom links needed as international telecommunications reach annual growth rates of 20 per cent and more.

Dietrich Zimmermann

(Mannheimer Morgen, 18 July 1981)



From 1983 Europe's TV Sat will relay three TV programmes direct to households in the Federal Republic of Germany, and from 1986 five TV and sixteen radio programmes. (Photo: MBB)

Winter in the Antarctic with jig-saw puzzles and chess

"What's the weather like down there?" Bonn Research Minister Andreas von Bülow asks the crew of Germany's Antarctic base.

The scene is a Bonn press conference to mark 200 days since the expedition arrived in Antarctic waters. The phone call is via Comsat.

The temperature outside is -25 °C, the sky is overcast and there is a little wind, he is promptly told.

The call to the Georg von Neumayer research base 14,000km away in the Antarctic is via a Marisat maritime communication satellite.

The base is on the Antarctic ice shelf and slowly heading out to sea at an average rate of 160 metres per year, so contact is maintained by ship's radio.

Two hundred days beforehand a convoy of three research vessels were bound for the Weddell Sea and the Filchner ice shelf, where the base was originally to have been established.

But the pack ice was impenetrable, so on 14 January, after consultation with Bonn, it was decided to head for an alternative site 625km away in Atka Bay.

In less than 40 days the construction team put the base together. It consists of two corrugated metal tubes 50 metres long and 7.5 metres in diameter arranged side by side.

They are linked by a passageway and house containers used as living quarters and research laboratories.

Since 4 March the base has been manned by a skeleton crew of five who are sitting out the winter.

They are Eckard Müller-Heiden, 32, from Ulm, a doctor and head of the team, Jürgen Janneck, 28, from Bremerhaven, the camp engineer, Paul-Herbert Haag, 32, from Bremen, the radio officer, Friedrich Obleitner, 24, from Hall, Austria, the meteorologist and Matthias Idl, 31, a fellow-Austrian and the cook.

Morale is good, Müller-Heiden says, although the monastic life and lack of human contacts with the outside world are problems.

But there is no lack of work to ensure that everyone is kept busy and no-one feels depressed.

Essential work includes constant shovelling of snow. Atka Bay is a bad weather area where 180km/h wind and heavy snowfall are the rule.

But the Antarctic night does not last as long as it would have done on the Filchner ice shelf. After two months of uninterrupted darkness the sun reappeared for 25 minutes on 22 July.

Vehicles need regularly clearing of snow, warming, servicing and repairing. Then comes the base's extensive scientific programme.

It includes meteorological observation, measurement of ice movement, recording of magnetic field and radio emission in the ionosphere along field lines.

Then there are ground surveys and checks to ensure that the tubes in which the base camp staff live and work are still structurally sound.

Dr Müller-Heiden is also studying the medical effects of isolation and stress on his colleagues.

Leisure facilities include a video unit with 50 hours of tapes, books, a record-player, sports and games.

The sporting equipment includes table tennis and skiing. Chess was long the favourite game but at the time the telephone call was made everyone was keen on a 5,000-piece jigsaw puzzle of a painting by Breughel.

Yet despite such diversions and despite regular radio contact with other Antarctic bases and weekly phone calls with people back home, the 10 months the five men will be out there on their own are a long time.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 24 July 1981)

■ THE CINEMA

The melancholy sound of a saxophone and a boy with nowhere to go

Permanent Vacation and *Bye Bye Brazil* were two of more than a dozen outstanding films shown at this year's Hamburg film festival, screened for five days in July.

Permanant Vacation takes us to the Lower East Side of New York. Few people are to be seen in this ghost town of decaying house fronts and garbage-laden streets, this dirty lonesome city.

A beautiful young woman at a window asks the hero where he has been as the dull light of day warms the inhospitable empty space a little.

Just walking around, answers the 16-year-old boy who calls himself Aloysius Parker and wears his clothes and hair in the fashion of the beatnik era of the late 40s and early 50s.

He is a Manhattan graffiti artist of no fixed abode, without a job or aims in life, whose feeling for life is told by Jim Jarmusch in his first film in blue-tinted pictures with high contrast.

Jarmusch was an assistant to Wim Wenders in Wenders' *Lightning over Water.*

His hero is engaged in an escape into the interior in a single, continuous movement and, unlike Wenders' Handke film, he has no fear of making a false movement.

Wherever possible he would like to be a step ahead of what motivates him (whatever it may be).

"He seems," Jarmusch has said, "to be an example of something I have encountered among many young and intelligent people all over the United States.

"They are youngsters who became teenagers some time after the youth movement of the 60s and thus lacked direction.

"For people outside the system there is no real centre, no movement in which they might incorporate themselves or to which they might relate."

Permanent Vacation, shown in English with German subtitles, was an extremely inexpensive film, produced on a shoestring budget of barely $30,000.

Yet in its way it is perfect and does not go wrong at any point. At times (moments of peace and quiet) it has something of the distance and detachment of Edward Hopper's paintings.

Then, supported both by the melancholy sound of a saxophone and by the trance-like atmosphere conveyed by electronically alienated Japanese gamelin music, it is an altogether Expressionist work.

Jarmusch also outlines his dreams and quotes snatches of conversation from somewhere or other, relating episodes from the periphery of his life, somewhere between documentation and fiction.

Carlos Diegues, in *Bye Bye Brazil,* screened in Portuguese with German subtitles, deals, in a manner more in keeping with conventional narrative cinema, with another aspect of contemporary America.

He tells the tale of a group of funfair and circus people, a magician, a woman dancer and an acrobat, who travel from place to place in a gorgeously painted old truck as Caravana Rolidei.

They are joined by an accordeon player and his pregnant wife, and soon two worlds meet (worlds that still exist alongside each other in Brazil), reflected in the needs of this handful of people.

One is shown to be in a process of slow decay. It is a world characterised by the nostalgic samba rhythms of the villages and small towns that technological progress has yet to reach.

When it does, however, it will upset and destroy their way of life. Its place is being taken by another, dominated by the new medium TV, in which there is no longer any room for the colourful street art of the circus.

At the end of the film we see a gigantic new truck with flashing neon lights and a cargo of human yet marketable merchandise.

This is what happens when the circus people adapt to the needs of civilised society and transform themselves into a kind of mobile Eros Centre.

Bye Bye Brazil shows us both the old and the new South America and is both a telling and a fascinating story of change. It is not without a degree of optimistic enthusiasm about living in this new world.

These, then, are two of about 30 films screened in five days at the eighth Hamburg film festival, and seldom over the past year have so many fine films been seen at the same time.

Both had already been seen at the Mannheim and Locarno festivals. Most of the others were not new either, although for the most part produced over the past two years.

Most of the others have already been seen in Berlin or Cannes or elsewhere, and were there rated, perhaps not outstanding films, but films well worth seeing.

Yet hardly any German cinema has yet screened them and no distributor has seen fit to handle them.

This state of affairs is due to change. Hamburg is not just a film festival, although as a festival it receives more than DM900,000 in subsidies and was well worth seeing.

It is also a trade fair for the 150-odd repertory cinemas in membership with



AG Kino. They meet once a year in Hamburg and offer guarantees for individual films in anticipation of box office receipts.

A separate finance company then buys the films and AG Kino loans the copies to cinema-owners, first and foremost its own members.

The number of cinemas currently screening films of this kind has increased drastically in the past decade, more particularly over the past two years.

Repertory cinemas are opening even in the provinces, so much so that they have been an indispensable feature of the film world since the late 70s.

They and the communal, or municipal cinemas have taken over from Walter Kirchner's Neue Filmkunst and Lupe cinemas which in their turn maintained the post-war film club and cinema guild tradition.

Many began 10 years ago with an outlook that was dedicated, committed; but they have also always been commercial enterprises, although dubbed alternative cinema.

In the films they screened they were certainly intended to provide an alternative to conventional commercial cinema.

They sought to show several films a day, films of the kind that would otherwise never have been shown (or maybe in late-night shows).

They tried not to show films in isolation but in series arranged according to the producer, genre or country, and to explain them in a film magazine.

They also held platform discussions and other events with a view to making contact with the cinema-going public.

Their ideas may have differed widely and failed to tally, but there were many points of contact it could be said to be all about.

They included programmes for children and old people, political films (be they about the Third World or squatters in Germany, about community or trade union work) and a communication centre.

The Abaton in Hamburg was, in the wake of the Arsenal in Berlin, one of the first cinemas to run against the grain of the general demise of picture palaces in the late 60s and lauch a new venture.

Despite scepticism voiced by the pundits, Werner Grassmann set up the Abaton in an old garage near Hamburg's university campus.

It now houses two cinemas, the AG Kino and the film finance company (both of which he heads) and the Hamburg film festival.

The problems repertory cinemas face have nonetheless, despite the progress made, remained essentially the same, and they are probably more pressing in the town than in the country.

This fact was certainly very much in evidence at the platform and other debates held during the film festival many of which, sad to say, were not open to the general public.

Repertory cinemas face a threat to their aim of showing a full range of films, a threat to their very existence even. It is the law of the major distributors, whose methods predominate in the trade.

Four film distributors (both American and smaller German enterprises, such as the Filmverlag der Autoren) refuse to do business with repertory cinemas.

They are under pressure from the cinema chains not to do so and effectively ban copies of films they handle from the smaller repertory cinemas.

This ban may have been lifted to some extent here and there but basically it still applies, at times even going to extremes.

There have been instances, exceptional ones maybe, of cinema-owners being so worried about forfeiting box office receipts that they bought up a film and then preferred not to screen it.

This they did rather than allow non-profitmaking operators and film clubs run by the Church or by educational institutions to show it.

AG Kino, the distribution agency serving alternative cinemas, has for years had a stock-in-trade of more than 100 films that has proved a godsend to small operators who were up against it.

It has enabled them to show serious and outstanding films at times when otherwise they would have been at a ... end. It is also a stock-in-trade th... ample for any cinema that is just b... launched.

But the repertory cinemas are ha... to cut their coats according to the ... under pressure from spiralling p... and paper costs.

The issues discussed in Hamburg w... almost exclusively commercial consid... tions such as how best to attract a... sers and how to facilitate and stand... ise text evaluation.

This shop talk testified to a comm... cial outlook among the mainly ... cinema tradesmen that completely ... whelmed artistic considerations.

So little was said about progra... magazine or screening concepts or ... the content of films shown that it ... easy to gain the impression that ... commercial criteria continued to ...

Yet if repertory cinemas are to ... as an alternative to commercial cin... (and not just in doing more than ... change of programme twice a ... aspects and events of a non-comm... kind must be taken into account.

In the mid-70s alternative cine... still had a backlog of film history ... make good, and cinema-goers wa... see films they had previously be... unable to see.

This backlog demand now seems ... have been satisfied. Besides, there ... competition from TV (as, for insta... from the ten-part Buñuel series curr... ly being screened on Channel 1).

Television no longer screens ... *oldies; in screening* the latest film ... Buñuel it is depriving the cinemas ... box office potential.

It has lately seemed to be the ca... (and, sad to say, this trend was not ... cussed in Hamburg) that repertory ... nemas have taken to showing films ... haphazardly as their commercial co... petition.

A series of films billed as featuring female stars of the silver screen sudden... ly turns out to include the most ... films merely because they starred Romy Schneider.

A series of purportedly bad films ... include costume films of the 60s th... are not worth seeing by any criteri... while action can be an excuse for a... thing.

Programmes have been known ... include films hailed as racy comed... starring Laura Antonelli.

And programme magazines are gr... ing less and less imaginative (altho... this is not invariably the case), which ... somehow systematic.

Yet the number of repertory cinem... *is on the increase.* Hanover-based ... chim Flebbe, for instance, will soon ... running a dozen cinemas between Ha... burg and Göttingen.

In Frankfurt, where the first reperto... cinema was opened in 1977, there w... by the end of this year, be half a doz...

Size and concentration on the ... not to mention possible competi... and mergers, threaten to deprive rep... tory cinemas of the quality that ... made them unique and distinct.

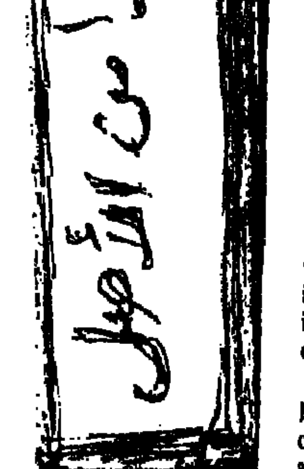
Kurt Otterbacher, who was one of ... launchers of Frankfurt's repertory ci... ma, admits that its progress has b... one of missed opportunities and ... failure.

Yet it is no coincidence that one ... cinema has been named Chapter Two ... could presage a second chapter in ... repertory cinema saga.

One can but hope it will not pro... throwback to mindless commercia... but mark the beginning of new ideas.

Wolfgang W...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze... für Deutschland, 8 July 19...)



■ MEDICINE

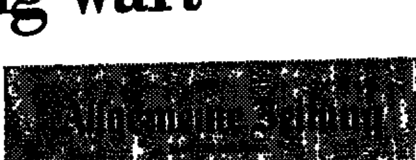
Spell of disaster for that lingering wart

Huckleberry Finn tells Tom Sawyer, in Mark Twain's novel, that magic spells are a sure cure for warts.

More than a century later they still seem to do the trick with obstinate warts and shingles where medicine fails.

"It seems to work," says Professor Adolf Ernst Meyer of Hamburg University Hospital, who has made a study of the subject, yet he can only guess why.

Huck Finn's method was to take a dead cat to the graveyard at midnight, preferably to the freshly-dug grave of an evil person. (At midnight the devil



comes to snatch the evil-doer from the grave.)

You must throw the cat at the devil and yell: "The devil take the corpse, the cat follow the devil, warts follow the cat! Away with you!"

You can do it with beans too, Huck tells Tom. You must split a bean down the middle and cut the wart open so that blood flows, then spread a little blood on one half of the bean.

This half must be buried at a cross-roads at midnight on a moonless night and the other half must be burnt. The buried half will try to pull the other half down with it, taking the wart too.

Medicine has made great strides since the 19th century and the days when Mark Twain told the tale of Tom and Huck, but it has made little headway with some complaints, and they include warts and shingles.

"When doctors are at their wits' end they send their patients to us, even senior surgeons at leading hospitals," says a man whose 72-year-old wife has since childhood successfully cast magic spells on warts and shingles.

She is deaf and has nothing to say on the subject, but her husband proudly says that his wife has so far always succeeded in curing the complaint in three sessions at most.

Curing warts in this way is more difficult than curing shingles, apparently, "but she has always succeeded. Patients mist not overdo eating and drinking during the treatment, and not wash the warts either."

His wife has special spells, he says, and also a book listing the spells to be used. But what is in it and which spells she uses are her secret. No-one is allowed to watch her treating her patients.

Professor Meyer, who says it seems to work, does not feel the methods used by the medical profession (burning, cutting or cauterising warts) are invariably necessary.

There are no scientific data or figures relating to groups treated in one way or other. Why, in any case, should one feel so dubious about school medicine?

But there has been research into hypnosis. Patients who have been hypnotised have proved quicker to cure than those treated without hypnosis.

"The mechanics of the two processes, hypnosis and spells, are similar," says Professor Meyer. "It is a matter of suggestion."

He has probed magic spells as a method of curing complaints for many years, but has yet to reach a decision he would regard in any way as final.

Magic spells include an extra feature, something special and preferably spine-chilling. Often the patient has to do it himself.

"It" can be something such as putting a toad on the wart, going to a cemetery in the middle of the night or burying some item or other.

Magic spells are gaining in popularity, too. "It may not be a boom but there can be no mistaking a clear trend towards outsider methods," says Professor Meyer.

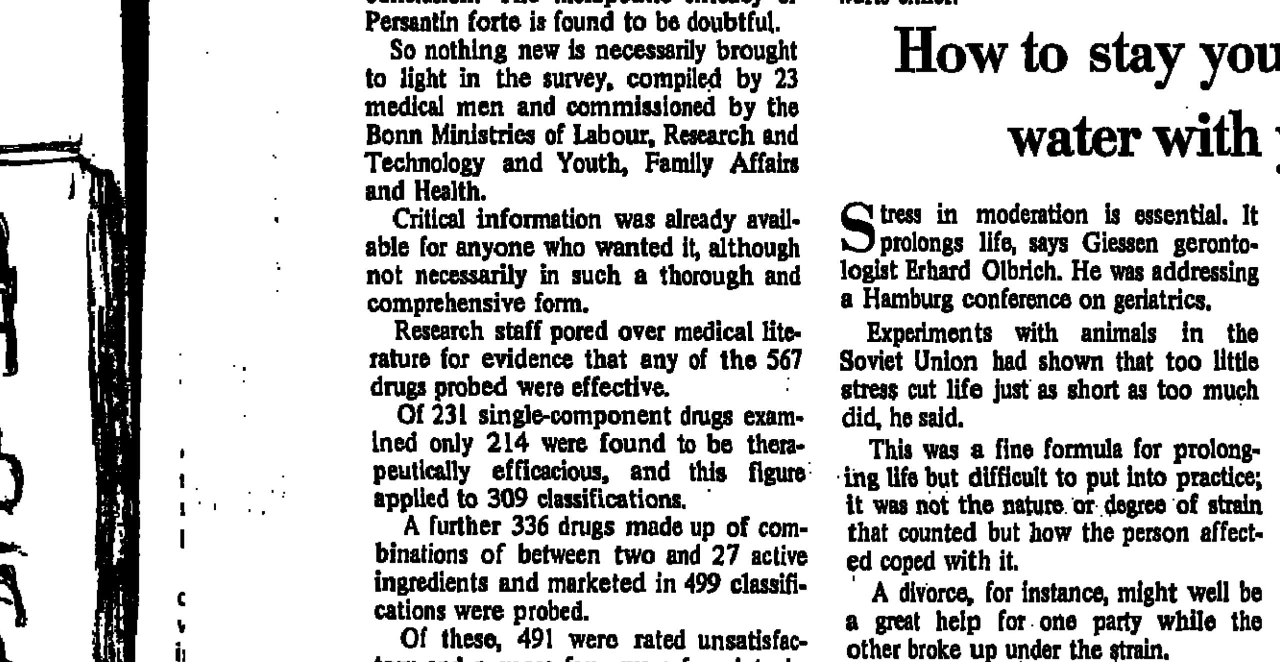
"It may be because outsiders spend more time talking to the patient, show greater understanding of the suffering and trigger a response to the increasingly technological nature of medicine today."

Popular medicine has always cured complaints such as warts and shingles, however, and only complaints such as these. All in all, the medical profession is as much at a loss to explain the phenomenon as everyone else.

dpa

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 3 July 1981)

The heart of the matter



Most heart drugs are to all intents and purposes placebos. They have little or no effect, according to a drug survey supervised by Bremen medic Eberhard Greiser.

Persantin and Persantin forte, manufactured by Thomae, are claimed to be vasodilators. In other words, they are said to dilate the blood vessels.

That is why they are often prescribed after a heart attack. But they only improve the oxygen supply to parts of the heart that are well-supplied already, not to sections of the cardiac muscle that are in jeopardy.

This critical assessment of a specific drug is five years old. It is taken from Paul Müth's *Medikamentenbuch für den kritischen Verbraucher* (Book of Drugs for the Critical Consumer).

The first volume of Professor Greiser's survey of cardiac drugs reaches a similar conclusion. The therapeutic efficacy of Persantin forte is found to be doubtful.

So nothing new is necessarily brought to light in the survey, compiled by 23 medical men and commissioned by the Bonn Ministries of Labour, Research and Technology and Youth, Family Affairs and Health.

Critical information was already available for anyone who wanted it, although not necessarily in such a thorough and comprehensive form.

Research staff pored over medical literature for evidence that any of the 567 drugs probed were effective.

Of 231 single-component drugs examined only 214 were found to be therapeutically efficacious, and this figure applied to 309 classifications.

A further 336 drugs made up of combinations of between two and 27 active ingredients and marketed in 499 classifications were probed.

Of these, 491 were rated unsatisfactory and a more four were found to be therapeutically effective. In other words, only 40 per cent of heart drugs on the marked passed the test.

Some consolation may be derived from the preface to the survey written by Giessen pharmacologist Ernst Habermann.

A doctor who prescribes a virtual placebo for cardiac malfunction may well be a shrewder physician than one who prescribes a drug rated efficacious, Professor Habermann says.

But must there be so many virtual placebos?

(Rheinische Merkur/ Christ und Welt, 17 July 1981)

How to stay young: take a little water with your stress

Stress in moderation is essential. It prolongs life, says Giessen gerontologist Erhard Olbrich. He was addressing a Hamburg conference on geriatrics.

Experiments with animals in the Soviet Union had shown that too little stress cut life just as short as too much did, he said.

This was a fine formula for prolonging life but difficult to put into practice; it was not the nature or degree of strain that counted but how the person affected coped with it.

A divorce, for instance, might well be a great help for one party while the other broke up under the strain.

Using what Professor Olbrich called the psychotherapy of life one could learn to change one's attitude towards daily stress and handle it better.

Bernhard Steinmann from Berne, Switzerland, dealt with diets for old people. The older you got, the more important it was to drink enough water per day, he said.

Liquid intake was most important as a means of preventing premature ageing. Older people were less thirsty than younger, and if they drank less their bodies tended to dehydrate.

Mental upsets, general exhaustion and heart trouble ensued, Professor Steinmann said. He advised older people to make sure they drank at least a litre or a litre and a half a day.

This liquid (mineral water, fruit juice, meat extract or tea) should be taken over and above the food normally eaten.

Old people needed to be particularly careful in reducing high blood pressure, said Erich Lang from Giessen, president of the German Gerontological Association.

Blood pressure did not necessarily have to be reduced to normal levels, but the reduction must be gradual.

Low blood pressure also required treatment, Professor Lang told the conference. Like high blood pressure it increased the risk of a heart attack.

Caution was likewise counselled in connection with medicine to counteract weakness of the heart in old people. Dosage must be carefully considered to rule out harmful side-effects.

It was surprising to learn, he said, that provided medical and personal care were good older people were no more likely to die of heart attacks than younger.

It was also immaterial whether the heart patient was looked after in a large hospital or a small but well-run clinic or nursing home.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 July 1981)

New treatme[nt] for autistic children

RHEINISCHE PO[ST]

Dutch Nobel laureate Nik[olaas Tin]bergen has outlined to [...] ners of the Nobel Prize at the [...] dau conference a new method [...] ing autistic children.

Dr Tinbergen, an experiment[...] gist, has developed the method [...] with New York therapist Mart[ha ...] It ran counter to the approach [...] by most therapists, he said.

Autistic children suffer from [...] radical form of inability to make [...] with their surroundings. They [...] communication with their envir[...]

Psychiatrists had largely m[...] stood the complaint, attributing [...] varying degrees to incurable [...] fects such as brain damage.

Dr Tinbergen a professor at [...] University, in England, attributes [...] to traumatic experiences in [...] hood.

It was, he said, an anxiety-de[...] emotional disturbance of baby [...] prevented interplay between [...] parents and surroundings in the [...] hostile influences before or after [...]

He had been unable to find [...] defects among the children he [...] and Dr Welsh had examined. He [...] factors merely influenced the [...] vulnerability.

Angst is the key word, Dr Ti[nbergen] feels. Social anxiety makes the c[...] ject all attempts to establish social [...] and initially prevents the establishm[ent] of contact with its mother.

Subsequently any kind of social [...] with others is likewise ruled out.

The Tinbergens were first pr[...] to examine the subject by reading [...] histories of autistic children who [...] recovered without medical assistance.

Their mothers had succeeded in [over]coming their anxiety. This, the T[inber]gens felt, clearly indicated that [...] was curable.

They felt this assumption was [...] out by the unusually high percen[tage of] cures achieved by therapists who [...] by intuition.

Martha Welsh is one such psy[...] She starts by inducing the mo[ther to] hug her child, using force if need[...]

In Lindau Dr Tinbergen sh[owed a] succession of photos indicating [...] children who initially objected f[...] to being hugged suddenly loo[ked at] their mothers for the first time.

They carefully studied their [...] faces, then looked at grandmothe[rs who] were present and finally [...] therapist.

Eventually they showed signs of [...] vity and examined objects in the [...] It was the first step on the [...] recovery.

Treatment by this method [...] from six weeks to three years. So [...] children have been treated, 25 s[...] fully. In two cases the mothers [...] failure, in two other cases exte[...] cumstances were to blame.

But autistic children could be [...] he emphasised. They no longer [...] to be committed to homes for the [...] tally sick.

Klaus D[...]

(Rheinische Post, 3 [...])

■ CHILDREN

Learning rhythm and melody through music: an award-winning method

A 43-year-old housewife from Weinstadt, near Cologne, has been awarded the 1981 prize for the best German gramophone record for children.

She is Anneliese Gass-Tutt, a freelance dancing teacher specialising in dances for children. Her record, which bears the Fidula label, is entitled *Kinderparty*.

At the prizegiving ceremony Heinz-Werner Pölchau of North Rhine-Westphalia Education Ministry said half the records on the market were heard by children of pre-school age.

That was why parents and educationalists urgently needed advice and ideas on quality and criteria by which to select records.

The award-winning record was Frau Gass-Tutt's idea and she was responsible for the music and dance concepts and the book that accompanied the record.

It was, the jury said, imaginatively arranged and well put to music, both vocally and instrumentally.

Children were activated and motivated to move freely or under supervision to the music and to express in their dancing how they experienced rhythm and melody.

The jury were particularly impressed by the excellent presentation on the *sleeve* and the detailed and readily un-



derstandable description of the dancing envisaged.

The prize, awarded for the first time this year, would, it was hoped, get across to a wider public the little-known fact that modern dance music exists which has been specially arranged for children.

This is a subject in which Frau Gass-Tutt is particularly interested. Since training as a teacher of music and sport she has been appalled by the idea that children's dancing was limited to either aping adults or going through conventional or traditional kiddie dance routines.

She aimed to develop new dance games and varieties specially devised for children. There was to be no compulsion to carry out prescribed steps or to compete in any way.

"For me the simple, straightforward figure is fine," she says. "I don't want there to be a show. That is something you have to learn and practise.

"What I want is for children to enjoy carrying out simple, easy to follow movement sequences."

She tried to put her ideas into practice as a teacher, keeping them up as a hobby when she married and had children of her own and settled down as a housewife.

Nine years ago her first book of dances for four to 10-years-olds was published, soon to be followed by a second book for older children.

She has long enjoyed close and cordial ties with Fidula-Verlag, her publishers and record label. 70,000 copies of her books and records have sold to kindergartens and elementary schools.

So the prize has not altogether been a complete surprise for her.

She relies for many of her ideas on courses she runs for kindergarten teachers and sports club dancing instructors. "You get a varied response, ideas and suggestions for improvements," she says.

Her own children, girls aged 11 and 13, have naturally been a great help too.

Whenever their mother came up with a new idea the girls brought round a few classmates and tried it out.

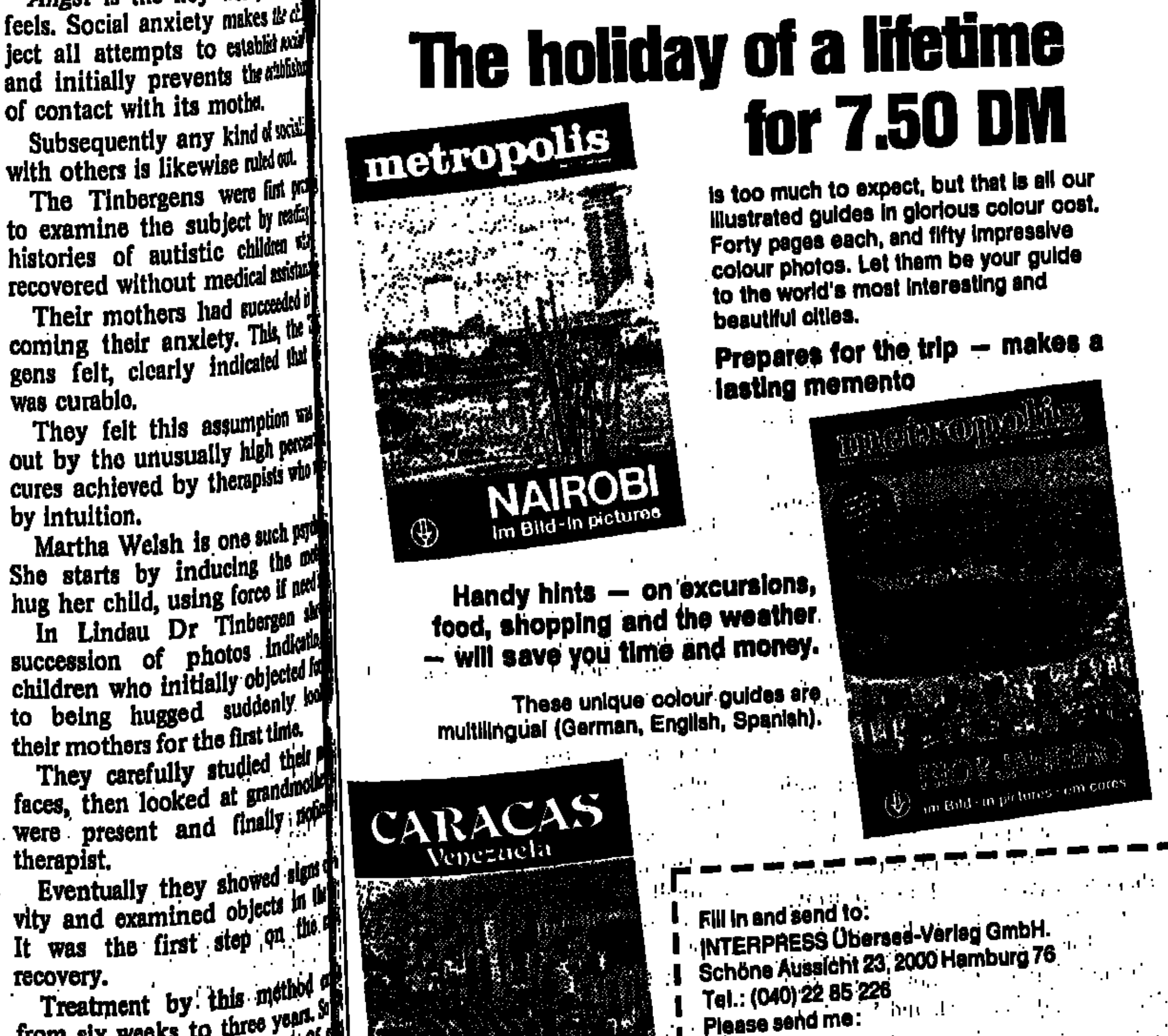
The best way to break the ice at children's parties, says Frau Gass-Tutt, is to overcome the inhibition barrier as soon as possible by means of music and motion, without much instruction.

She has no ambitions to set up in competition with dancing instructors and studios or ballet classes for children. Her aim is to convert into motion the music children like.

"It will continue to be no more than a hobby," she says, "otherwise I fear I might forfeit my spontaneity."

Rainer Schauz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 July 1981)



The pressures of failure

Tübingen University psychiatrists say there has been an enormous increase in anxiety and depression among schoolchildren.

Even nine- and 10-year-olds frequently feel like stopping the world and getting off. Often they try.

Children's doctors, scientists and educationalists discussed the problem in Augsburg. A number of *Land* Education Ministries were also represented.

Reinhard Lempp, head of child psychiatry at Tübingen University, reckons about 30 per cent of children who are failures at school run a risk of failure in later life on account of mental upsets.

Parents in an Aalen, Württemberg, pressure group for humane schooling said their polls showed four out of five children at all categories of school felt overburdened.

Replies by 1,000 children, 1,000 parents and over 6,000 teachers indicated that 78 per cent of schoolchildren aged under 10 needed constant help with homework.

At high school this percentage drops to 61, but the difference is hardly substantial.

Teachers fare badly too. Fifty per cent of elementary school children did not understand what they were supposed to be taught.

The corresponding figures for other, ascending categories of school were 54, 30 and 26 per cent.

As for teachers themselves, three out of four felt inadequately trained in education theory and didactics. They, like the parents, favoured cuts in the curriculum.

Fifty per cent of teachers felt marks or grades were a dubious practice.

dpa

(Mannheimer Morgen, 9 July 1981)

Sex education inadequate, reveals Bonn survey

Only 37 per cent of girls and 25 per cent of boys are given advice on contraception by their parents, according to a poll by a Munich professor.

Professor Schmid-Tannwald of Munich University put questions on sexuality and contraception to 1,600 youngsters aged 14 to 18.

The survey was commissioned by the Bonn Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health. The Minister, Antje Huber, briefed the Press in Bonn on its findings.

She said it clearly indicated that young people were not taught the facts of life satisfactorily either at home or at school.

Fifty-five per cent of girls and boys questioned felt they had not been taught enough about family planning at school. As for relationships with partners of the other sex, 74 per cent felt there was more they could have been taught.

"That," Frau Huber commented, "is not enough to enable young people to protect themselves."

In 1979 about 8,000 girls under 18 gave birth. Last year 4,800 of 87,700 legal abortions involved girls of under 18. The only way to deal with the problem of abortions was to teach young people more about contraception.

Frau Huber called on parents first and foremost to function as the first point of contact for their children on matters relating to sexual education.

They must do more than merely lecture them about bodily functions and the birds and bees.

The survey said the mother was the most important person in connection with information on the facts of life. She was reported to head the list by 69 per cent of girls and 41 per cent of boys questioned.

Three out of four parents of girls and two out of three parents of boys felt their children had been taught enough about sex. So did 80 per cent of the girls and 75 per cent of the boys.

But there were serious shortfalls of information on key issues. A third of the girls and nearly half the boys used either no contraceptives or unreliable methods even when going steady.

Yet 90 per cent of the girls said pregnancy would be either a catastrophe or must unpleasant.

A further sign that more information and advice were needed was that 35 per cent of boys and 21 per cent of girls said there was no-one with whom they could discuss sex.

Frau Huber hopes to help bridge the gap by printing a one-million run of the brochure *Mussehen muss es nicht geben* (There is No Need to Have to 'Get Married).

Gerda Strack

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 July 1981)

■ RELIGION

Judaism as an academic discipline reasserts itself after 40 years

Two years after it was launched the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies has been granted official recognition as an academic institution.

It is now the only college of its kind in Germany and enjoys official status as part of German university life. But Jewish studies in Germany can look back on a long and distinguished tradition.

Indeed, no tradition that has survived to this day has done so longer than the Jewish, and traditions, especially those of major religions, do not retain their vitality merely by maintaining a certain way of life or form of worship.

Their survival is to a large extent due to the repeated learning of what has been handed down, especially the canon of the holy scriptures and their interpretation, and to the reaffirmation of belief in changing circumstances.

In the Jewish tradition this role has customarily been assigned to scholarly interpreters, and later to philosophers.

Judaism as an academic discipline emerged in the early 19th century at the time modern historical and philological research methods were evolved.

It was committed to the ideal of objectivity embraced by modern science as a whole, yet at the same time the disciplined study of Jewish traditions by Jews was intended to enable them to strengthen an identity weakened by assimilation.

The emergence of Jewish studies made Germany the intellectual centre of European Jewry, with students from neighbouring countries to the east in particular enrolling at the famous universities of Berlin and Breslau either to study Judaism or to prepare to become rabbis.

Untill the Nazi era all currents of Judaism were represented in Germany, and represented academically too.

Leon A. Feldman, founding dean of the Heidelberg faculty, was forced to leave Germany as an 18-year-old. He went on to hold the chair of Hebrew studies at Rutgers University, New Jersey, before returning.

The two main objectives at Heidelberg, he says, are to maintain Jewish knowledge and to prepare students for a career in the German-language Jewish community as a cantor, religious instructor or social worker.

The difficulties that arise are self-evident. The continuity of Jewish research and teaching was broken in Germany for 40 years.

Among the 30,000 Jews who live in the Federal Republic of Germany today there is a glaring shortfall of tradition.

There once was a time when all major German cities boasted a high school where Jewish youngsters were taught not only the standard curriculum but also the classical teachings of Judaism.

Nothing comparable exists today, so school-leavers who are thinking of joining the Jewish clergy are no longer well versed in Hebrew and the Torah before they go to a seminary.

The Heidelberg college is neither willing nor able to train rabbis, however, although a number of Jewish communities in Germany may have expected it to do so.

All it can do is prepare students for a suitable course at a seminary in either Israel or the United States.

Were the college to specialise in training rabbis it would be setting its cap at a very exclusive position. It would also interest only a very small number of Jews.

Besides, it could hardly cater for all shades of opinion in Jewish religious life — for both reformed and orthodox, liberal and conservative Jews.

So the college does not see its role as that of a specifically career-orientated facility. Its brief is to lay the academic groundwork for a variety of careers, albeit manly among the Jewish community. Heidelberg has been accused of being too exclusively academic and of paying too little attention to practical work of a kind likely to benefit the community.

Professor Feldman will hear nothing of such claims. In the final analysis, he says, superficial knowledge is not much use for practical activity.

But where the very foundations of the Jews' knowledge about themselves have been upset they must first be relaid.

Initial expectations may have been too optimistic. The willingness of young Jews to deal in greater academic detail with their traditions was overestimated.

Yet students elsewhere can but dream of the conditions of study at the Heidelberg college. There are five professors (with one chair currently vacant), two lecturers and several tutors to teach about 30 students.

These 30 include both full-time major students and students for whom Jewish studies are only a subsidiary subject. There are also a number of visiting students from Heidelberg University, with which the college has a cooperation agreement.

From the outset the college has taken pains to hire first-rate academic staff, specialists from Israel, the United States and Spain.

For the most part they are Jewish scholars who were forced to leave Germany in the 30s.

This brings us to the most serious problem so far faced. None of the professorial staff have yet stayed in Heidelberg for longer than two semesters.

They quit either because of advancing age or on account of other commitments and research interests.

The only permanent woman lecturer, characteristically, is a German and a non-Jewess. Staff are required to combine the necessary academic qualifications with proficiency in the German language.

But many older scholars (younger ones too) are determined not to return to the country where they were persecuted and from which they were expelled.

They cannot forget that Germany was once the country that originated plans to eliminate once and for all the entire Jewish civilisation.

Professor Feldman has no intention of yielding an inch on his exacting academic requirements, however. He is determined to maintain standards established in the college's first two years.

His staff have included men such as Shlomo Eidelberg, Alexander Guttmann, Chaim Rabin and Abraham Wasserstein, all of them names that count for quality.

By keeping up standards he hopes for instance biblical interpretation [...] on the original Hebrew, not translations.

Encouragement of inter-disciplinary research is another objective, with the aim being to interest theological faculties in particular.

Most studies at the Heidelberg college say they are not there primarily to [...] academic honours. They are there because they are interested in a civilisation that for centuries helped to mould Europe what it was.

Jews may have been forced to [...] time and again to their ghettos [...] they have never lived in a cultural vacuum.

Even at the risk of being excommunicated by their community they plunged headlong into the philosophical debates of their age, making substantial achievements in both science and the arts. The search for their origins and of the cultural situation into which age born is a frequent quest of both Jews and non-Jews today.

Provided the Heidelberg University Jewish Studies remains open to both, it might yet accomplish what seems increasingly impossible elsewhere in the university thought factories.

It could expand frontiers of experience and heighten consciousness of what we have historically come to be.

Michael Hierholzer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 July 1981)

Islam's long history in Germany

Germany's Muslim minority is the second-largest in Western Europe: about 1.7m. Only France has more. And Islam has become the third-largest religious denomination after Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Germany's Muslim residents include an estimated 1.4m Turks, 120,000 Yugoslavs, 80,000 Arabs, 40,000 black Africans and South Asians, 20,000 Persians and 1,500 German converts.

Yet despite this relatively large number of faithful, the cultural importance of Islam is hardly reflected in German society.

It does not enjoy the privileges of the two major Christian denominations, for instance, and with few exceptions does not boast mosques commensurate with its importance either.

The Islamic countries, represented by their embassies in Bonn, have long sought to set up a religious and cultural centre in the German capital.

They recently agreed on a site, and later this year, if possible, the Conference of Islamic Ambassadors plans to hold an architectural competition for the best design.

Bonn will then be the fifth Western European capital (London, Brussels, Amsterdam and Rome are the others) to get an Islamic centre.

It will comprise a mosque, an extensive library and conference facilities. Saudi Arabia, custodian of the holiest places of Islam, will probably foot most of the bill.

The Arab countries also backed an institute for the history of Islamic-Arab studies founded in Frankfurt last February and affiliated to Frankfurt University.

Eleven Arab countries raised roughly DM40m towards the cost of setting up this centre for the study of Islamic knowledge and tradition.

Islam's roots extend way back into German history, however. Charlemagne in the eighth century AD was on good terms with caliph Haroun al-Rashid in Baghdad.

There are many instances of encounters between Germans and Islam during the crusades that were to their mutual benefit and are now once more the subject of historical research.

But who would know that the history of Islam in Germany dates back to Frederick William I, Prussia's soldier-king? In 1732 he had the first mosque in Germany built near Potsdam garrison church.

It was a gift for 20 of his favourite troopers, the six-footers he gathered from all over Europe. These 20 were Turks and the Duke of Livonia arranged for them to serve in the Prussian army.

"The people of Berlin recognise the Prophet Mohammed," the Osmanic envoy Resmet Ahmed Effendi wrote effulgently to Sultan Abdul Hamid I in 1777.

"They make no bones about being prepared to accept Islam." This was the conclusion he reached from the enthusiasm Berliners showed about the first envoy of the Supreme Porte to visit Frederick the Great's Prussia.

One of the best-known German Moslems was African explorer Dr Eduard Schnitzer, who in 1878, as Mehmed Emin Pasha, became governor of Egypt's equatorial province.

Then there was Karl Detroit, a young sailor from Brandenburg who jumped ship, a three-mast barque from Hamburg, in the Bosphorus.

Thirty years later he was a Turkish field-marshal and represented the Supreme Porte at the Congress of Berlin in 1878.

These men form a link between the past and contemporary German Moslems, who number an estimated 1,500. One of them, Mohammed Aman Hobohm, has likewise gone far in an international career.

Until 1954 he was imam of West Berlin and head of the Muslim community in Germany, then he entered the diplomatic service.

He is now an influential Islamic theologian and an expert on Germany based in Karachi, where he works for the Islamic World Congress.

Muhammad Abdullah, a German publicist, feels German Moslems could well emerge as a leadership elite, although this is currently no more than a future prospect:

"German Moslems are only an infinitesimally small minority among the 1.7m supporters of Islam in the Federal Republic of Germany.

"But one day they could well come to the fore if one of their organisations were to succeed in gaining recognition as a religious community."

So far their bid for recognition has been in vain, but the authorities are gradually coming to realise that if the principle of equality is to apply, Islam is less entitled than other major religions to be officially recognised as such.

Klaus Bering

(Nordwest Zeitung, 15 July 1981)

■ SPORT

Langer's second in British Open gives German golf a new dimension

[...] Bernhard Langer, 23, was given a standing ovation by a crowd of [...]000 at Royal St George's, Sandwich, when he came in second in the 110th Open.

[He] was runner-up to Bill Rogers of the United States in 276, four strokes [...] the US pro. For Langer it looked [...] like a breakthrough.

[...] certainly well on his way to be[coming] for German golf what Gottfried [von Cra]mm was for German tennis, the [man who] paved the way for a better [...]

[...] will doubtless be a few months before my success has any effect," he said, "but I firmly expect golf to grow socially acceptable in Germany and to emerge from its wallflower existence."

What upsets him about Germany is that there are only two municipal golf courses in the country, in Düsseldorf and Munich. "Maybe there will soon be some initiative to make the sport accessible to the general public."

Golf can prove a spectator sport. There were 114,522 spectators on the greens and fairways at Sandwich, and a fine public they were.

"They are the greatest golfing public in the world," said Rogers, who feels the US public do not merit this accolade.

Maybe this is because the first British Open was held in Prestwick back in 1860. None of the US masters tournaments can hold a candle to the leading British events in this respect.

Not even Wimbledon, the Mecca of lawn tennis, can claim to have been going for as long as that.

The German Open, shortly to be held at Falkenstein, Hamburg, will certainly be a far cry from its British and US counterparts.

But more than a few thousand spectators, as last year in Berlin, might possibly turn up in Hamburg, prompted by Langer's second place in Sandwich and consistent form elsewhere in Europe.

He has been runner-up in four more tournaments of late, so maybe the local boy will produce a fresh sponsor for the German Open now that Braun have retired from the fray.

Even so, the German Open lacks both the cash and the kudos, so it is most unlikely to rate the competitors who enter for other events of its kind.

Langer has certainly done his best to popularise the event, and his other priorities (America, the Ryder Cup, "preferably against Tom Watson," and his first win of the season) are by no means entirely selfish.

On the evening of his final day at Sandwich he drove off to London for a pro-am tournament for the benefit of handicapped children.

He is much better known among young people in Britain than in Germany. "I hardly spend any time in Germany," he explains.

Maybe he will not be on his own in defending and helping to popularise German golf for much longer. Carlo Knauss is another young German pro.

He can afford to take the plunge too, having found a sponsor for this year. In Sandwich Knauss failed to make the final round but he covered the course in 79 and 76 on the first two days to win £350 in prize money.

"The Open is an unforgettable experience I should hate to have missed," he said after failing to make the final round.

He then set off to Holland and the qualifying rounds for his next tournament. In this he was very much following in Langer's footsteps in seasons past.

Peter Sundt/dpa

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 July 1981)



Bernhard Langer (Photo: dpa)

Kolbe the enigmatic oarsman

[Ha]mburg oarsman Peter-Michael Kolbe, a two-time former world [cham]pion and single sculls specialist, is [go]od for a surprise or two.

[...] limelight after being soundly beaten [by] 22-year-old Georg Agrikola from [...]heim at the national champion[ships] in Essen he made an equally un[expected] comeback in the Rotsee regatta [in] Lucerne.

He rose like a phoenix from the ashes [in] the Swiss event, generally regarded as [a] dress rehearsal for the forthcoming [world] championships in Munich.

[In] the heats Kolbe, 27, came from [behind] with an unexpected and unaccus[tomed] spurt to overtake the new GDR [...] Uwe Mund just in time.

[In] the final he outrowed the entire [field], including Agrikola, to set a record [for the] course.

Kolbe has always been a puzzle. Why has [he] suddenly hit peak form? Maybe, as a [...] medal-winner since 1973, he was [...] to be beaten by newcomer with the [...] world championships in his own [country] just around the corner.

[...] was it his new boat with its fixed [...] and mobile outriggers and footrest? [...] were certainly important psycholo[gically] and could well have made him [...] faster.

[In] all probability it was a combination [of] everything on a day when tailwinds [were] ideal too.

[Eve]n his coach, Hamburg police offi[cer] Jürgen Düse, would not have been [surpr]ised if Kolbe had given up if any[thing] had gone wrong.

[He] was nearly outrowed in the heats [and] was put out of his stride by teeth[ing tro]ubles with his new boat.

"I wanted to prove to myself and [...] that I still have what it takes," he [said] after the final, scratching from a se[cond] event the following day.

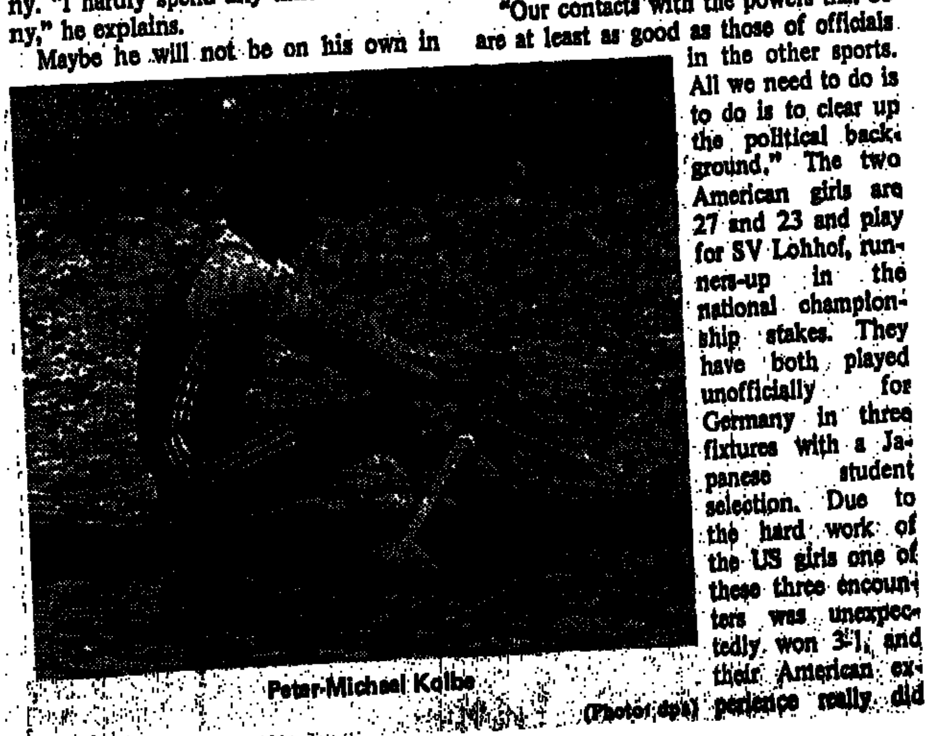
"Two such tough races on a single [day] are more than enough," he ex[plained].

[T]his meant postponing team selection [for] the world championships, probably [at] the Duisburg international event. Kolbe was chary in Lucerne on his [worl]d championship prospects.

"First they have to select me," he [said], "and then I shall have to decide [whe]ther or not to take part." So Kolbe [rema]ins an enigma.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 13 July 1981)



Peter-Michael Kolbe (Photo: dpa)

Volleyball officials want to nationalise American girls

German volleyball officials are seriously thinking of naturalising two American girls to enable them to play for Germany in the European championships and at the Olympics.

Christian Brandel, the Volleyball Association's public relations officer, prefers to say that the officials are "considering a theoretical situation."

It may be theoretical but it is certainly worth considering. With Germany well on the way to becoming a leading contender in European women's volleyball the two American girls could make all the difference.

Janet Baier and Terry Place, outstanding players in the volleyball Bundesliga, are development aid volunteers with a difference.

Between them they have been capped over 200 times for the United States. They seem sure, if naturalised, to be capped many times more for Germany.

Christian Brandel explains why this is a distinct possibility rather than a mere hypothesis:

"They did it with Murray and Peters in ice hockey and basketball. Why shouldn't it be possible in volleyball if we put our minds to it?

"Our contacts with the powers that be are at least as good as those of officials in the other sports. All we need to do is to do is to clear up the political background." The two American girls are 27 and 23 and play for SV Lohhof, runners-up in the national championship stakes. They have both played unofficially for Germany in three fixtures with a Japanese student selection. Due to the hard work of the US girls one of these three encounters was unexpectedly won 3-1, and their American expertise really did make all the difference. "We have fine women players of our own but they are simply better motivated when they know the two US girls are playing alongside them," says Brandel.

It would not be the only such arrangement in German volleyball. Marina Staden, who emigrated to Germany from the Soviet Union, went on to become a mainstay of the German national team.

The idea of naturalising the two American girls is far from unrealistic. Janet Baier is of German extraction and has said she is prepared to assume German nationality.

Volleyball officials have certainly given thought to the opportunities that might then arise. Could Miss Baier qualify for the European championships or the Olympic Games?

"No problem," Brandel answers without a pause for thought. "They would have to have played last for the United States three years beforehand to qualify for the European or world championships.

"This requirement is one they will both fulfil by 1983, a European championship and pre-Olympic year in which we hope to qualify for the Olympic tournament."

There is little likelihood of chief coach Andrzej Niemczyk not selecting either of the two girls if given the chance.

"On this issue it is up to my bosses to take the next step," he says in shaky German (he hails from Poland). "But if they were to give me either Janet Baier or Terry Place I would certainly use them."

After a moment's thought he adds: "They may all say we stand no chance against the GDR and Bulgaria, but that is just not true. All I need is the two US girls as Germans."

Maybe he recalled what Regina Vossen, 18-year-old youngest member of the national team, had to say after the 3-1 victory over the Japanese student selection:

"Normally your nerves are pretty bad in a game like that. But it was enormously reassuring to feel that you had a teammate who knew what she was doing, who could really play volleyball."

Hans-Jürgen Schott

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